

THE JOURNAL

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Opinion County responds to criticism of ballot measure designation [A4]

Arts 'Ramblin' Jack' documentary opens today [C3]



WHILE MANY spectators showed up hoping to see a wrecking ball at work, they were instead treated to a mechanical claw grabbing a corner of the former Mr. Michael's Restaurant.

CHRIS TREADWAY/STAFF

Plaza ceremony a time to look ahead and look back

By J.R. Deaton
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — It finally happened — well, kind of.

The ground breaking ceremony for the new El Cerrito Plaza last Tuesday was both more and less than what one might have expected.

More than 300 people braved a cold morning drizzle and overcast skies to be on hand for the start of the official demolition of the 42-year-old Plaza.

Shouts, yells and applause rose from the crowd when a big yellow and black Caterpillar claw took a few dinosaur-size bites out of a corner roof of the northwest Plaza building.

Representatives from Plaza co-owners Albertson's and Regency Realty, the El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce, council members, former council members, current and former city staff, former Capwell's and Emporium workers and plenty of others were there to watch and photograph the historic and emotional event for the city of El Cerrito.

Blue, yellow and white balloons bobbed from strings in the parking lot, black-and-white photos of the vintage Plaza were on display along with color architectural drawings of the new Plaza. A buffet table was loaded with cakes, fruits and other goodies.

A large banner reading "El Cerrito Ground Breaking Ceremony" was draped behind the lectern with scores of balloons above.

After the build up of expectations, one could tell the crowd was a little disappointed that none of the buildings actually came down.

The old Emporium building is still the biggest structure in the city and will remain El Cerrito's outdated but distinctive architectural gran dam for a bit longer.

It was also apparent, however, that for many people who came out for the "demolition party," the event was an emotional time.

"Nostalgia — sadness — closure," answered Berkeley resident Paul Grunland when asked why he was at the ceremony.

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PRESCHOOLERS FROM Willow Street Schoolhouse, top, came with Diana Bickham and her son Robbie to watch the demolition. Above, Regency Realty senior Vice President Tom Engberg talks about the renovation plans.

Coastal Cleanup outlook is picking up

Community will pitch in at annual event on Sept. 16

By Joaquin McPeek
STAFF WRITER

65,735.

Sounds like a good figure if your counting the number of fans at a 49ers game, but that's actually the number of food wrappers found lying along the beaches that were picked up last year at California Coastal Cleanup Day.

The day spearheaded by the California Coastal Commission since 1995 has grown to become an annual mainstay in frontline environment action.

On Sept. 16, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Berkeley and neighboring cities will join

the thousands of people across the state to pick up as much trash as possible along the shoreline.

Volunteers will also cover the shore of Lake Tahoe, the rivers of Sacramento and Fresno, and other distinct waterways in California.

Even in an area with the reputation of showing concern for the environment, Berkeley, along with Albany and Emeryville still gathered close to 40 tons of trash at last year's event.

Close to seven million people are crammed in the Bay Area, which translates to a growing amount of waste.

"Our plan is to clean to cover the entire Berkeley waterfront," said Martha Berthelsen, an assistant at the Shorebird Nature Center.

The center, which focuses on education,

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Montessori School wins final approval

By J.R. Deaton
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — It took two public hearings at three City Council meetings, but the Rising Sun Montessori School finally got a green light from the council last week.

On a three-yes and two-abstention-vote, the council approved the new child care facility in the Trinity Evangelical Free Church at 7200 Schmidt Lane.

A number of conditions and restrictions were placed on the approval, including a maximum enrollment of 35 children, limiting outdoor play time to a total of 3.5 hours a day, locating an outdoor hard-surface play area away from nearby homes and instituting a strict complaint procedure for neighbors to use if necessary.

Also, an English Laurel hedge separating the neighbors' properties and the church will be allowed to grow to 6 or 8 feet in height to serve as a noise buffer. A fence between the neighbors and the school to reduce noise may be required at a later date. The fence issue will be addressed by city planning staff working

together with neighbors, school and church principals.

Neighbor Hal Schultz, citing noise, the concentration of child care centers in the neighborhood and other concerns, appealed an earlier Planning Commission decision to allow the school to locate in the church.

A dozen Schmidt Lane and Lawrence Court neighbors signed a petition last spring opposing the school.

Several people spoke for or against the new school at last week's meeting and the city also received several letters prior to the public hearing.

"We know it's a noisy situation," Schultz said about the noise neighbors fear will come from the planned school.

"The neighbors still remain opposed to the new child care facility," he added later. "However, if the council elects to grant the use permit, the neighbors are requesting that conditions be included."

Alice Sherwood lives on adjacent Lawrence Court and said 35 cars will pass right by her back fence and yard

See SCHOOL, Page A9

Odds don't seem to favor El Cerrito shuttle plan

By J.R. Deaton
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — The longshot got a little longer last week.

A West Contra Costa Transportation Advisory Committee (WCCTAC) vote last Friday was the "kiss of death" for the City Council's shuttle bus hopes said WCCTAC board member and El Cerrito Councilwoman Janet Abelson.

WCCTAC voted 6-1 to support an alternative plan that calls for a new pay-for-parking garage near the Plaza BART and using some of the revenue generated to pay for a commuter shuttle to both BART stations in the city.

The vote for the alternative plan was essentially a 'vote against the council's shuttle bus plan.'

Abelson was the only WCCTAC board member to vote against the alternative plan.

Critics of the council's shuttle bus plan say it is not honoring the intent of Measure C passed by the voters in 1988 and calls for, in part, money to be used for BART parking in El Cerrito.

Abelson pointed out earlier this week

that the WCCTAC vote is not the final word. WCCTAC is an advisory board to the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA), the body that will make the final decision about the council's shuttle bus plan.

"It is hard to imagine how it would ever pass," said Abelson about the shuttle proposal's chances with the transportation authority after the WCCTAC vote. "I don't know that it would have happened anyway, but that did it — the final nail in the coffin."

Council members Gina Brusatori and Kathleen Perka also attended last week's WCCTAC meeting with Abelson.

In a July report, El Cerrito planning manager Jill Keimach said that unless a "financial advance or augmentation" can be negotiated, funds for shuttle operation under the alternative plan would not be available until 2003.

Use of all remaining Measure C funds will be considered this fall when the transportation authority updates its strategic plan, Keimach said in her report.

WORTH CHECKING OUT

Harding principal reception

A welcoming reception for new Harding Elementary School principal Barbara Taylor will be held from 6:45-7:30 p.m. on Sept. 7 in Room 1 at the school, at the corner of Ashbury and Fairmount avenues.

Ohlone Greenway cleanup

Volunteers are welcome at the next cleanup from 9 to 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 9 on the Ohlone Greenway from Fairmount Avenue to the Albany/Ell Cerrito border. Meet on the Greenway at Fairmount Avenue. Volunteers will be doing general clean-up, weeding, pruning, cleaning out the creek near Fairmount. Participants should bring work gloves and gardening tools if possible.

Friends book sale

The Friends of the El Cerrito Library will hold their annual fund-raising book sale from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 16, and noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 17. Thousands of books for readers of all ages, along with lots of CDs, videos, books-on-tape and music recordings, will be offered at very low prices. Selection includes fiction, non-fiction, cookbooks, children's books, history, sports, philosophy, business, travel, art and science. On Sunday, all items will be sold at half price. From 2-7 p.m. Monday, Sept. 18, West County teachers may select any unsold books at no cost for use in their classrooms. The sale will be held behind the library at 6510 Stockton Ave., El Cerrito. The Friends' sales of books raised more than \$5,000 last year. The money is used to sponsor special programs and buy materials for the El Cerrito Library.

City Wide Garage Sale

The 11th Annual City Wide Garage Sale will be held on Oct. 7. To be added to the city's mailing list, mail your name and address to El Cerrito Recycling, 10890 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, CA 94530. Attn: Garage Sale 2000 or call 215-4350.

Family story time

The Kensington Library hosts a free 7

p.m. family story time program this month for all ages on Sept. 5, 12 and 26. Details: 510-524-3043.

Curbside additions

Curbside collection of mixed paper and magazines begins in El Cerrito Tuesday, Sept. 5. This addition to the curbside recycling program is intended to help further reduce household waste sent to landfill. Details on the curbside recycling program will be mailed to homes this month. In the meantime, the city reminds residents that the El Cerrito Recycling Center accepts mixed paper and magazines year-round.

Shoreline cleanup

Friends of Five Creeks leads a shoreline clean-up walk, talking about history, wildlife, and restoration possibilities from Strawberry to Codornices Creeks, 10 am Saturday, Sept. 16, as part of Coastal Cleanup 2000. Meet at Sea Breeze Market, south of University Avenue just west of the freeway in Berkeley. Details: 510 844-9358 or f5creeks@aol.com.

Recorder players

The East Bay Recorder Society begins its new year at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 8, in the choral room at St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Ave. Society meets monthly; all playing levels welcome. Bring recorder and music stand. Professional conductor. Call Glen Shannon at 510-525-1249 for more information.

Legal rights of cancer victims

"What's cancer got to do with it?" is the topic of a free legal workshop from 6-8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 12 at La Pena Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave. The workshop will address your legal rights in the workplace and to medical insurance, even if you have a history of cancer. Topics will include the ADA, COBRA, and HIPAA, presented by employment law attorney Janis Eggleston, ERISA attorney Janet Brown and Dan Hersh, health insurance specialist with HCFA. To pre-register or for more information, call Catherine Porter,

Women's Cancer Resource Center legal services coordinator, 510-548-9286, ext. 303. The center is wheelchair-accessible.

Graduate Council lectures

The UC Berkeley Graduate Council again sponsors its public lectures series. The fall 2000 Howison Lecturer in Philosophy is Michael Frede, professor of the history of philosophy at Oxford University, presenting "On Aristotle's Notion of the Soul." The lecture will be held at 8 p.m. Monday, Sept. 11, in the Toll Room of UC Berkeley's Alumni House. The lecture is free and open to the public. For disability-related accommodation, please call 510-643-7413 10 working days in advance.

The fall 2000 Hitchcock Professor is Joel E. Cohen, Abby Rockefeller Mauze professor at Rockefeller University and a renowned environmental scientist. His first lecture, "How Many People Can the Earth Support?" will be held at 4:10 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 12, and his second lecture, "Human Carrying Capacity: Concepts, Methods and Models," will be presented at 4:10 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 13. Both lectures will take place at UC Berkeley's International House Auditorium, 2299 Piedmont Ave. (at Bancroft Way). A special presentation of films and discussion on population issues will be held at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 19, in the Chan Shun Auditorium, 2050 Valley Life Sciences Building on the UC Berkeley campus. For additional information about this and other lectures, call 510-643-7413, e-mail: lectures@uclink4.berkeley.edu, or visit online at www.grad.berkeley.edu/lectures.

Garden docents needed

The University of California Botanical Garden is seeking volunteers who are interested in plants and who would like to learn how to give tours of the garden. Knowledge of plants and prior teaching experience is useful, but not required. Principal qualifications are to like plants and to enjoy people. Training begins Sept. 11. Call 643-1924 for information.

Business held up at knifepoint

STAFF REPORT

EL CERRITO — Around midnight on Aug. 17 a man with a knife held up the Super Stop, 11687 San Pablo Ave., and fled with \$200. A store employee described him as white and in his early 20s, thin and about 6-foot-4 with short, slicked back brown hair, wearing a white bandanna across his face, and wearing a white "L.S." T-shirt and gray pants.

■ The night of Aug. 6 the tires were slashed of a Toyota Tacoma parked on the 7500 block of Levenson Avenue.

■ Two cars that were stolen last week — a Geo Metro stolen at the Target parking lot at 11450 on Aug. 24 and a Toyota Cressida taken from the 1600 block of Lexington Avenue — were found and returned to their owners.

According to a police report, there

POLICE REPORTS

were no suspects for either incident.

■ The night of Aug. 6 someone attempting to steal a car in a carport on the 3200 block of Belmont Avenue tore apart the steering column, resulting in \$500 worth of damage.

■ On Aug. 2 a man and woman in their 20s allegedly fled the Hollywood Video store on 1511 San Pablo Ave. with several videos hidden under their jackets. Police have no leads on the couple.

■ On August 8 a window was smashed and a jacket stolen from a car parked near the intersection of Knott Avenue and San Pablo Avenue.

■ The evening of August 19 a 20-year-old Suisun man was arrested in El Cerrito for driving while intoxicated, and the passenger, 22, was

placed under citizen's arrest for dishing a firearm. Police said he stopped the two after responding to a gun call. The same night a 46-year-old man received a DUI during a traffic stop at Eureka and San Pablo avenues.

■ On Aug. 18 another man was given a DUI after being seen for "driving an unsafe vehicle" according to police.

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Fight at party leads to two arrests

By K. Osborn
CORRESPONDENT

ALBANY — Officers were called to the 700 block of Adams Street three times starting around 11:30 p.m. on the night of Aug. 22 on reports of a noisy party, involving drugs and alcohol, being hosted by a 19-year-old Albany man. The party had moved from the house to the street. Each time officers responded they advised the group to return to the house. At about 12:30 a.m. officers were again called to the area on reports of a fight breaking out in the house and moving out to the street. Officers responded and found a 17-year-old Albany boy who had been hit and kicked by at least two other party attendees. He was transported to Alta Bates hospital. Officers arrested an 18-year-old Albany man at the scene for assault and battery and he was transported to the Berkeley jail. Another attacker, also an 18-year-old Albany man, was arrested a short time later at the 7-Eleven store on Solano Avenue. He was cited and released with a Notice to Appear. Officers are still investigating the incident.

■ At about 2:30 a.m. on Aug. 22 a resident on the 1200 block of Brighton Avenue reported that thieves had broken into a green Chrysler sedan parked in front of his home. He was awakened by a loud noise. There were no witnesses. ■ On the night of Aug. 22 San Francisco police reported locating a white '89 Toyota that had been reported as stolen by an Albany resident. They also reported having a suspect in custody. The owner of the car was notified. ■ On the morning of Aug. 24 a resident on the 1000 block of Venetian Avenue reported that thieves had broken into a green Chrysler sedan parked in front of his home. There were no witnesses. ■ On the morning of Aug. 25 a business owner on the 1200 block of Solano Avenue reported that vandals had "tagged" the front window of the building causing damage to the glass. There were no witnesses.

During the week of Aug. 20 many officers towed five vehicles responded to 11 false alarms, attended to eight lost or deceased animals, assisted three people who were locked out of their house or car and responded to five reports of barking dogs. In the domestic arena officers responded to 20 civil disturbances and 89 civil assaults. Officers responded to 112 cars and/or pedestrians in 60 citations and 52 warnings. As firefighter/paramedics responded to three fire calls and 13 medical emergencies.

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During the week of Aug. 20 many officers towed five vehicles responded to 11 false alarms, attended to eight lost or deceased animals, assisted three people who were locked out of their house or car and responded to five reports of barking dogs. In the domestic arena officers responded to 20 civil disturbances and 89 civil assaults. Officers responded to 112 cars and/or pedestrians in 60 citations and 52 warnings. As firefighter/paramedics responded to three fire calls and 13 medical emergencies.

■ On the evening of Aug. 22 San Francisco police reported locating a white '89 Toyota that had been reported as stolen by an Albany resident. They also reported having a suspect in custody. The owner of the car was notified. ■ On the morning of Aug. 24 a resident on the 1000 block of Venetian Avenue reported that thieves had broken into a green Chrysler sedan parked in front of his home. There were

NEWS IN BRIEF

Applicants sought for Kensington Fire District vacancy

The Kensington Fire Protection District is soliciting interest from residents to file for a vacancy on the Board of Directors that will become effective Dec. 1. Interested parties must be a resident of Kensington for a minimum of two years and registered voter of the district. Dates will be for a four-year term and begin with the district's Dec. meeting. The Board of Directors' meetings include attending and participating in monthly public meetings, committee assignments, and serving board officers.

Those interested should submit a brief statement of interest by Monday, Sept. 11 at noon to the Kensington Public Safety Building, 2710 Aragon Ave., Kensington, CA 94707. Interviews of interested candidates will be held the evening of Wednesday, Sept. 13 prior to the monthly meeting.

For additional information, call

Debra Navelier, District Adminis-

trator at 510-527-8395.

Castro principal

Back to School night

EL CERRITO — Castro families

and other community members will

have an opportunity to meet Castro

Elementary School's new principal,

Sherry Green, at the school's Back

School ice cream social from 6:30

p.m. Thursday, Sept. 7.

Everyone is invited.

The event will be held in the mul-

purpose room of the school; enter

Glady's Avenue Street, between Gladys

and Lincoln avenues.

Donations are welcome.

Green received his bachelor's de-

gree from National University. He re-

ceived his teaching credential and

his degree from United States

National University. He also at-

tended the Administrators' Academy

(California Schools Leadership

Academy) in San Diego.

Green began his career as a

teacher. He began teaching elemen-

tal school in 1990 at Johnson Elec-

tary School in San Diego. He re-

cently taught at Wilson Middle School

in San Diego. In addition, Green has

served as an adjunct professor at

United States International Univer-

versity.

He has been highly trained in lit-

eracy acquisition and has subse-

quently led workshops at his school

and in the community.

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Opinion

VIEWPOINT

Critics mistaken about library measure ballot listing

By Steve Weir
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY CLERK

Some who oppose the Contra Costa County library measure that will appear as Measure "L" on this November's ballot claim that the allocation of the letter "L" constitutes bias towards the measure by the Election's Office. This group claims that the Election's Office has broken with past practices by skipping letters in the assignment of measure letters. This allegation is false.

Here are the facts: the past practice in our Election Office under Assistant County Registrar, Hugh Denton, has been to begin the year with the letter "A" for the first measure. However, as various elections are scheduled throughout the year, Mr. Denton does not assign the letter "L" because it is too easily confused with the number "1" which the State uses for its measures. (Election's Code Section 13116 permits this to avoid confusion.)

You only have to go back to November 1998 when the state used Proposition "L" and the Legislature added Proposition "1A" as well. The State Legislature can add measures after our deadline and can assign the number "1" or "1A" for those measures. In the past six out

of seven election cycles, the Election's Office has chosen to skip past the letter "I" and to begin the lettering sequence thereafter.

Letters can also be skipped because the Board of Supervisors is contemplating placing a measure on the ballot that would come before all other local measures. Therefore, the Election's Office reserves the next letter or letters in anticipation of the board ordering such a measure. If the Board does not place the measure on the ballot, that letter is skipped. This very thing happened in 1998 and again in 2000.

Those claiming that the Election's Office has taken a stand in favor of a measure are not correct. It is a coincidence that the library measure received the letter "L". If I were to arbitrarily change the assignment of the letter to this measure to satisfy the demands of this small group, I would be guilty of the very thing they are falsely accusing this office of in the first place.

The Contra Costa Election's Office is committed to conducting elections in a professional and politically neutral manner. All employees pledge to act consistently with county and departmental policies on political neutrality.

Keep those cards and letters coming

By Larry Damon
EL CERRITO CITY COUNCILMAN

I thank Norman La Force for his letter (Journal, Aug. 18) on the disposition of Measure "C" funds for El Cerrito. It contained good information in support of a garage at the Plaza BART station. And if in the process he cusses us out a bit, well, that's just Norman. Some of us were on the council with him and began gauging how well we were doing by how mad he got. Apparently, we are still doing pretty well. I also thank George Amberg for responding with his corrections (Journal, Aug. 25). I don't want to see Mr. La Force ignored. Unfortunately, Mr. Amberg's corrections did not address a few essential points.

Mr. La Force contends that the present council is "defying the will of the voters" by not building a garage with the \$6 million in Measure C funds. He knows whereof he speaks. Mr. La Force sat on the council for eight years and did the same thing. But, because he refused to build the garage then, the present council is now faced with a "use it or lose it" decision. Mr. La Force also contends that the present council has made a decision without studying things. Not so. The council is presently studying whether a garage or a bus shuttle service would best meet current

needs. After all, Measure C passed 10 years ago. But, since no decisions have been made, how can the present council be defying anything?

While a shuttle service would reduce traffic congestion, alleviate parking and lessen cold starts, all consistent with improving El Cerrito's environment, it also asks our citizens to change some commuting habits. This goes down hard and our community seems split on the matter. Indeed, even Mr. La Force himself is at odds with his environmentalist buddies on this one. They are all uniformly against anything that makes auto use more attractive. I'll let him explain that.

Ultimately, however, the final decision may not be the City Council's. The \$6 million in funds is controlled by the Contra Costa Transportation Authority and so far they are adamant that a garage must be built. Facing loss of funds if we don't, we will probably have to do it. By cooperating with CCTA, however, we "may" get some funding for a shuttle service in the next round. In the meantime, the council will be exploring some possible "joint-use/joint-funding" alternatives with the Plaza developers.

But, keep those cards and letter coming, Norman, we miss you.

We want to hear from you

The Journal wants to hear from its readers. All letters must be signed and include the address and telephone number of the writer. Addresses and telephone numbers will not be published. Opinions expressed are those of the letter writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Journal or its staff members.

E-mail letters to journal@cctimes.com or write to P.O. Box 1624, El Cerrito, CA. 94530.

Our fax is 510-644-1735.

GENERAL MANAGER • RUTH MARICICH
EDITOR • CHRIS TREADWAY

ALBANY • EL CERRITO • KENSINGTON
THE JOURNAL

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Member, California Newspaper Publishers Association

THE SUMMER IS WINDING DOWN



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Portola starts e-mail forum

Portola's PTA is helping to improve communication between home and school.

This coming school year, the PTA will be starting a communication forum for parents, faculty and the administration via an email system.

■ On a monthly basis, you will receive the PTA newsletter, which contains information regarding upcoming school events, fundraising programs, student activities and ways our PTA monies are being spent.

■ You will receive the agenda before each PTA meeting. After each PTA meeting you will receive the approved minutes from the previous month.

■ On an as needed basis, information will be emailed to those on the e-mail forum such as special fundraiser dates, program specials, PTA meetings.

Are you interested in being on the email forum?

If your answer is yes, please email your name and email address to Joann Steck-Baya, PTA e-mail coordinator, at jsbayat@home.com.

Also, check out Portola's web site at www.wccusd.k12.ca.us/portola/main.htm

Joann Steck-Baya
El Cerrito

Shuttle can be more effective than parking garage

It's nice to see Norman LaForce join in on the garage vs. shuttle bus discussion — every alternative deserves a champion. He made some valid points, but they got lost in his partisan rhetoric. It's not only LaForce, all politicians talk about "single mothers getting off welfare needing access to jobs." That requires good planning, not wasteful projects, and certainly not slogan-mongering. Most surprising is LaForce's switch from environmentalism, to promoting private autos.

Some facts: The voter-approved Measure C wording provided the means to change the transportation spending plan. The promised Del Norte garage was built from other funds, unfortunately not at the best spot. Right by the freeway, after a land swap, would have been much better. Now, 12 years later, we are smarter, and it's clear that properly used shuttle buses are more cost effective than a new garage. Many Bay Area communities (like Orinda) want them. Even Los Angeles now see that providing more parking is uneconomical and self-defeating (at the North Hollywood rapid transit station). As council member, LaForce could have scaled back the earlier mixed-use garage for BART's Plaza land, rejected by local residents.

Hold out for the infeasible Wilton-Teranomics plan, getting neither shopping center nor garage. The latter was the one positive result of that sad fiasco.

LaForce correctly states that AC buses often run empty. Yet "free and frequent" shuttles are known to be successful when there is a massive, ever-increasing parking shortage. Note that the private Del Norte Mayfair lot now charges \$5/day for reserved parking. Each space at the new garage (with only about 220 new slots) would cost taxpayers about \$10/day.

Substantially more BART parking can be provided, for those living further away, by having closer-in residents use a bus rather than scramble for a space. The present council wants to spend the money wisely, and asked the County Transportation Agency which collects our taxes, for proper technical analysis. It never got that.

LaForce suggests that the money, rather than "be wasted" on buses, go for a garage at the Richmond Transit Village. The plan to revitalize downtown Richmond is surely a worthy effort, but this will not relieve congestion as promised by Measure C. Our new council, unlike past ones, insists on accountability. Demagoguery no longer works in our town. But LaForce is right about the empty buses. Making sure the shuttles are used and that local residents accept them is a challenge. Congestion is primarily a technical, not a political issue.

Peter Loubal
El Cerrito
El Cerrito

Experience counts

If contemplating a major brain operation, would you choose a dazzling song-and-dance man (George Bush) whose performance was superbly choreographed, or would you opt for an experienced brain surgeon who had at least a working knowledge of where that organ was located?

Ann Whitehead
El Cerrito

New construction threatens older neighborhood

I am writing this letter to express my concern over the disregard that neighbors and neighborhoods are given when new construction is planned. I live at 754 Pomona Ave. in El Cerrito and a new house is replacing an older building at 782 Pomona. I have reviewed the plans and feel the planned house is oversized for the neighborhood, designed without any ornament or structural elements that all of the older homes on our block have. I also understand that I have nothing to say or any recourse other than writing a letter to the City Council. I have been advised by the planning department to get used to it as all the empty lots and older/smaller homes are potentially at risk for development due to the current real estate market.

We have three empty lots in our immediate vicinity as well as an older unoccupied

home right next door. I feel that our neighborhood is very much at risk given the attitude of the city. My fear is that lack of community input will turn potential charming older neighborhoods into the overbuilt characterless monstrosities that now litter the suburban landscape.

It is unfair and arrogant of the city to shove the maximum building allowed into established neighborhoods without input by the people that it would affect the most, the neighbors. El Cerrito residents have a chance now to put a stop to this by implementing some community input into the process.

I would like the City Planning Department and the City Council to take this opportunity to make a long-term plan to keep El Cerrito a desirable and attractive community. In the long run this attitude will make El Cerrito a preferred destination.

Connie Laventurier
El Cerrito

Nature area is worthy of preservation

Thanks are due to retired Regional Parks Ranger Tim Gordon for his most worthy efforts to preserve the nature area around Jewel Lake in Tilden Park.

My sons can recall the many walks led by Ranger Tim (Berkeley's own John Muir) in the forest surrounding the lake — the many sightings of wildlife, including northern dark-eyed juncos, various insects, snakes, lizards, and even a tiny bunny under a large leaf, all of which call this place home. And Gordon's broad knowledge of the many species of plants, their possible medicinal values and value to the ecosystem.

Gordon's right. It would be a shame to cut away any part of this special jungle enjoyed by so many area residents every year. This area is like a living classroom for young children.

The rangers have done an excellent job utilizing every blade of sawgrass and every creature that dwells there to help educate our young population with an appreciation for nature that they will carry with them in all their travels throughout their lives.

Although we will sorely miss Gordon and the many walks he led at Tilden, we could all do well to follow in his footsteps and support the preservation of the Jewel Lake area as we've come to know it.

Stephanie Manning
Berkeley

Support for scouting

At an early age I was left to raise three sons alone. My only kin resided over 2,000 miles away. After my sons were grown, whenever anyone would praise me for raising three boys

See LETTERS, Page A9

"... were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

— Thomas Jefferson, 1787

Quiet satisfaction replaces bombastic spectacle at Plaza ceremonies

Around Town

By Chris Treadway

By Chris Treadway
JOURNAL EDITOR

Over the years, even decades of anticipation and acrimony, Tuesday's ceremonies finally starting the demolition of Cerrito Plaza were very anti-climactic, ending with a whimper.

No dynamite imploding a building. No wrecking ball. No revelations about any additional tenants. And they didn't even start tearing down the Emporium building as advertised in the newspaper.

For that matter, the cere-

mories attended by Plaza co-

owners, architects, past and pre-

sent city officials and a healthy

and of curiosity seekers

were under a smattering of

rain.

And everyone got what they

wanted and many thought they

would never see. Work is off-

the-underway and the new con-

struction is expected to be com-

pleted just over a year from

now in October 2001.

Asked if she ever thought the

work would come, former city

councilwoman Marge Collins

said, "No, I honestly didn't."

Someone said it was going to

happen and I said 'I don't care. Just

let it do it.'

The other past administrators

we were around for much of the

past-controversy — includ-

ing Jerry Raycraft, Elisa Tierney

and Phillips — showed up to

themselves that something

was actually, finally hap-

pening.

How anticlimatic was it? Invita-

tions promised "food, fun and

the demolition of the old Empo-

rium Building." That was enough

to motivate Betty Edington and

her husband to make the one-

ago, when the Emporium Tire Service building at the northeast end of the property was leveled.

When the claw had finished its work City Councilman Larry Damon and City Councilwoman Kathie Perka each picked up a piece of the rubble that had come down. Perka later said she was going to put her chunk "in a piece of plastic and use it as a paperweight."

Damon initially had other thoughts. He asked for and got the OK from a Regency Realty official to throw his chunk through the window of Mr.

Michael's in an apparent effort to expedite the demolition work.

Damon wound up and pitched ...

and the chunk bounced off the intact window and rolled onto the sidewalk.

It was that kind of day.

But few were grumbling, few

were mourning the ghost town

that once held healthy businesses

and few were truly disappointed.

After years of talk, debate and

frustration, something is offi-

cially happening at the Plaza,

and in the end that's what they

came to see.

Sitting near the empty space

that once held the since-relocated

Silver Screen Video where

she was a regular customer and

her daughter had worked, City

Councilwoman Janet Abelson

pointed out that demolition had

actually started several weeks

ago.

COMING IN

from

Fairfield for

the

ceremonies

was

Betty

Edington,

who worked

at the

Emporium/

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for 30 years

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1996.

CHRIS TREADWAY/STAFF

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CHRIS TREADWAY/STAFF

Pediatrician brought out best in kids, adults

By Kate Darby Rauch

STAFF WRITER

KENSINGTON — On a Monday morning in mid-July, Dr. Pierre Salgado did with a passion what he had been doing with a passion for most of his life. He went to work. He went to care for children.

Two days later, on July 19, the longtime Kensington pediatrician with offices in Richmond and Pinole died of cardiac arrest at Doctors Medical Center San Pablo.

His wife, Monique Salgado, says he was fulfilling a promise.

"He always said he would die before he retired and this is exactly what he did," she said. "His beeper went off when he was giving his last breath. He died in character."

This was months after Pierre Salgado had bought himself a silver Acura sports car for his 83rd birthday, and one year after he had become a United States citizen.

Born in Haiti, Salgado was that country's first pediatrician, his wife says, credited with establishing pediatrics on the island.

The Salgados moved to the Bay Area in 1965, largely to escape Haiti's tense political climate under former President Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier. Haiti at the time was a police state. The Salgados — opposed to the Duvalier regime — felt threatened, even though Salgado treated Duvalier's children.

"He was fed up with the political situation," Monique Salgado said. "People were living in anguish."

Salgado was 48 years old when he moved to the East Bay with three small children and started a new life. He opened a medical office in Richmond and soon was seeing hundreds of patients, primarily from the Spanish-speaking community.

"My dad was an unusually determined person. He managed to do anything he set his mind on," said Isabelle Salgado, 37, one of his two daughters.

Friends and family describe Salgado as an intense thinker who craved intellectual challenges and found relaxation in opera and gardening. But he was most at home, they say, treating little kids, setting aside his formal self and becoming a silly friend, doing out nicknames and easing tears.

"He always had time for children," said Robert Gardere, a Texas doctor who grew up in Haiti, where Salgado was his physician until he left the country at age 18. "He let me speak, he let me express what I wanted, which was great."

Gardere, a plastic surgeon, said Salgado influenced how he relates to his own pediatric patients.

PIERRE SALGADO

BORN: April 17, 1917, in Haiti.

DIED: July 19, 2000, in San Pablo.

SURVIVORS: Wife, Monique; four children, Veronique Salgado of Richmond, Jean-Pierre Salgado of Danville, and Isabelle Salgado and Nicholas Salgado, both of Berkeley; and three grandchildren.

MEMORIAL GIFTS: In lieu of flowers, the family prefers remembrances be sent to the Children's Hospital Foundation, Children's Hospital Oakland, 747 52nd St., Oakland, CA 94609.

"I picked up a lot of his ways with children," he said. "Once a child knows you are on his side, that can do anything and they aren't scared."

Salgado was devoted to his patients, working long hours, poring over medical journals on off-hours, taking calls on weekends and nights. Vacations were rare.

"His office was really his inner sanctum," his wife said. "I wish he would have known better how to gratify himself, how to do something wild, or some exploration."

Although many of his patients were immigrants, the doctor's policy was to be open-minded, never turning away a child for any reason, family members say. He always accepted Medi-Cal and often complained that old-fashioned family medicine was being gobbled up by HMOs, they say.

Salgado settled in Kensington, but for all his life he felt more like a creature of the globe than any one place, family members say.

The son of well-to-do French and Portuguese immigrants to Haiti, Salgado had an education without borders. A surgeon and allergy specialist, he attended medical school in Haiti

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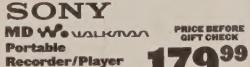
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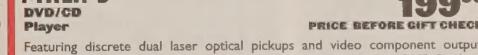


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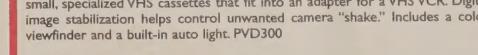
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good guys

Berkeley 1900

By Richard Schwartz

It is funny how often the choices of medical practitioners of Berkeley in 1900 look amazingly similar to today's. There were surgeons, homeopaths, acupuncturists, Indian medicine men and healers, all advertising in the Berkeley Daily Gazette. Medicine shows came through town and had a welcoming audience. Celery soda water was claimed to cure a headache, nausea and nervousness. Buckeye vapors were used to clear the mind and body. People had a big interest in drinking pure water, and distilled water proved to have a big market here in 1900 just as it has had one in current decades. Berkeley even boasted its own distilled water plant in the Pure Water Company. But don't think 1900 was all fun and games. Diphtheria, cholera and bubonic plague were all local words to Berkeley and loved ones could be swept away by diseases that we don't think about anymore. It was a time of great progress, great scams and great hopes for science making our lives more healthful. Indoor plumbing and city sewers helped greatly at that end as well.

Richard Schwartz's new book, "Berkeley 1900, Daily Life at the Turn of the Century," a snapshot of daily life 100 years ago as described in the pages of the Berkeley Daily Gazette, is available at Berkeley bookstores.

Berkeley 1900

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The "Buckeye" is the latest and best vapor bath made. You can take a Turkish, medicated or vapor bath at home for 5c. We are also wholesale and retail agents for Quaker Bath, \$3.50; McCreery's, \$5.50; Buckeye, \$6.50. Ferry Drug Co., 8 Market street, San Francisco. *



ONE OF BERKELEY'S first motorized ambulances is pictured above. It was used to rush patients to Herrick Hospital.

Labor Day

HOMESALE

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A great look and comfortable too... loose pillowback sofa from the Insignia Collection. Heritage sofa also shown.

Cocktail table and stone top nightstand are just two items from this great looking collection.

Insignia king bed and stone top nightstand are just two items from this great looking collection.

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Made a Mist of Money.

"Yes, Berkeley people are easy, said the doctor as he puffed again on a Havana filler. We came here to stay one week and stayed seven."

The foregoing little expression of appreciation for the kindness of Berkeley people was dropped by the manager of the travelling Medicine Company that has been showing here.

The company has had consigned here no less than 1200 packages of their specials and carry away only two hundred.

Immense crowds have witnessed their farcical attempts and have purchased the drugs with pleasure.

The company has a \$100 per week show and takes in an average of \$40 per night. The little sack has grown and Berkeley people wonder why the local druggist don't have larger stores, and it is no wonder when from \$1000 to \$1500 worth of "cure-all's" are vend at the loss of local dealers.

"With a merry good quaff to the health of Berkeley the artists leave the community wiser and poorer.

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Outbreak of the Bubonic

Plague in San Francisco.

Hospital to Gossips.

San Francisco, March 7.—Chinatown is quarantined by the authorities. Fears of the bubonic plague are entertained owing to the peculiar death of a Chinaman yesterday. The symptoms indicated the plague and it was thought wise to lock up Chinatown this morning. The Chinese can neither get in nor out. The case is under investigation today. Several are of the opinion it is not the plague. But the city was wise to take precautionary measures. There is little excitement.

STILL HERE



Friend James the Healer

is giving open air concerts at the corner of Shattuck street and Chan-

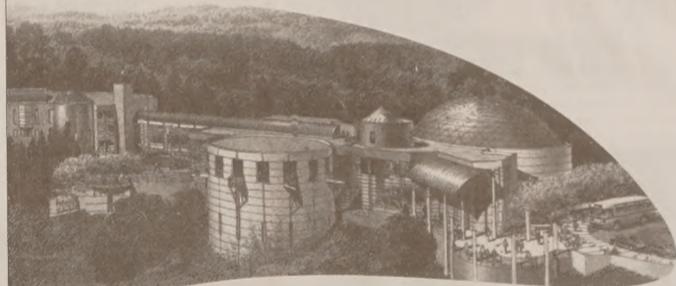
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and will be well supervised. "That will keep them not quiet, quiet because we cannot close their mouths, but they will at least be engaged doing something in groups."

Councilwoman Janet Abelson said the complaint procedure approved by the council should protect the neighbors' interests.

"There are really two complaint processes going on, one would be an on-going one and then one would be during the first year," Abelson said.

"During the first year, it only takes one person to bring up the matter, so that really means any complaint at all during the first year and this matter would be considered by the Planning Commission," she said.

"Any neighbor at all who has a problem can use that procedure during the first year and I think that actually provides a great deal of protection to the neighbors."

Last June, after the first public hearing on the appeal, the City Council indicated it would uphold the Planning Commission's decision.

In a subsequent July vote, however, Councilwoman Gina Brusatori raised

questions about the school's planned enrollment numbers and suggested a broader community discussion about the city ordinance that regulates what where such facilities are located in El Cerrito.

That vote resulted in last week's public hearing and subsequent council decision.

Mayor Mark Friedman, and council members Abelson and Brusatori voted to uphold the Planning Commission's decision and approve the school's use permit.

Council members Larry Damon and Kathleen Perka abstained on last week's vote saying that broader policy issues concerning child care facilities in El Cerrito need to be addressed.

"As more and more of these centers come to be necessary, we have to look closer and closer at the intensification issue," Damon said. "We can't have it so that one neighborhood has 10 while a neighborhood a mile away has none. It has to fall uniformly on the community."

news stories, there was a one-day strike on July 6 and a two-day strike on Aug. 2 and 3 by the Service Employees International Union, Local 250, involving Alta Bates Medical Center and many other Bay Area hospitals.

There is another side of the Local 250 story found among many of the Alta Bates Medical Center employees, as noted during the strikes. When and if there is another strike, in the name of providing improved patient care and improved employee benefits, we hope a more balanced view of all nonrepresented employees will be presented.

A number of nonrepresented employees don't want to become members of Local 250. As a result of this, Hospital Employees Against Representation by Local 250 (HEAR) has been organized as an independent grass-roots effort to prevent assimilation into the union.

We feel there is no advantage to be Local 250 members, nor is it an advantage to the care and well-being of our patients. During the strikes, no effort was made by the media to find out if there are opposing views to the Local 250 message.

We agree with Local 250 that it is important to put patients first; however, we don't feel a strike is the way to send that message to our patients, patient families, and our fellow employees!

I'm sorry; I don't think so.

A misleading ad

I recently saw on TV a political ad for Proposition 38. In it, some of Gov. Gray Davis' words were used out of context, suggesting his endorsement of Prop. 38. That is quite misleading and reflects on the backers of this proposition.

Am I being asked to vote to increase educational options for our children that would lead them, like the sponsors of the ad, to validate such distortion?

I'm sorry; I don't think so.

William Noel

Berkeley

Another side of hospital strike story

As has been recently covered in



NEIL VAN DER PLAS

THE LOCAL COASTLINE is the focus of clean-up efforts on Sept. 16.

Coastal

FROM PAGE A1

ing students about marine wildlife, is one of the coordinators for this year's event.

"We're also working with local creek groups to try and get as much participation as we can," said Berthelsen. One such group is the Friends of Five Creeks, which is leading a shoreline clean-up walk from in conjunction with the cities' efforts.

The Friends' efforts will include a clean-up brigade on Albany Bulb, which has suffered from the presence of Styrofoam objects along its rocky edges even though it is not yet open to the general public.

"In addition to our clean-up we will be talking about the history of the waterfront and the restoration possibilities of the Codornices Strawberry, and School House Creeks," said Susan Schwartz, a member off FFC.

The clean-up effort is much more than aesthetic in nature. Animals and aquatic life along the Bay can mistakenly eat plastic or become entangled in fishing line. And concerns don't just originate at Bayside. Much of the accumulated garbage washes down to the shore washes down from inland storm drains.

Berkeley has designated the space behind the Sea Breeze Market and

Deli on the corner of West Frontage Road and University Avenue and the new playground at the end of Bolivar Drive at Aquatic Park as the staging areas for the clean-up. Drinks, bags, gloves and tools will be provided.

According to the CCC, which is responsible for carrying out California's coastal management program, including to plan for and regulate development of the California Coastal Act which was formed in 1976.

Starting in 1985, Clean-up Day has become one of the most productive ways to get the community to become involved with coastal pollution issues.

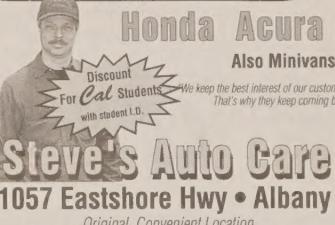
The CCC estimated nearly 52,000 Californians picked up over 1.5 million pieces of debris that weighed over 300 tons of trash in its 1998 campaign.

Part of the coastal day will include the "Adopt-A-Beach" program, when a group, either formed from a company's employees, members of the community, or students commit to cleaning a section of the beach at least three times a year.

For more details call 510-644-8623 or check the website at www.coastal.ca.gov.

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Fishing for News?

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Sunday, Oct. 1st, 2000
1 to 4 p.m.
Montclair Park (by the duck pond)

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- Robert Keenan • Tudal • Rosenblum
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CITY COUNCILWOMAN Kathie Perka holds a chunk of rubble from the demolition ceremony that she plans to keep as a souvenir.

ALBANY PTA

By Kay Weinstein

Attention: Online Shoppers, Support Albany Schools by going to www.schoolpop.com to access 125 merchants including Webvan, Amazon.com, drugstore.com and Land's End. Up to 20 percent of every purchase goes back to your school.

Albany PTA Council

Sept. 10, Look for our booth at the Solano Stroll, 1230 Solano Ave. (across from Café Eclectica) 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Albany High School

Join AHS PTA and receive the daily bulletin and important announcements by e-mail. Contact Ruth Gjerde at ruthg@eecs.org.

SCRIP Orders: Safeway and Andronico's scrip must be purchased from eScrip (1-800-400-7878). Old Navy scrip is now available from eScrip. We are selling Natural Grocery scrip, and arranging for Albertson's Community Partners cards. Call Linda Okamoto at 525-6782 or Belinda Lum at 528-2429. E-mail Linda at cho.prn.lo@cho.org or Belinda at bel@pacbell.net.

Albany Middle School

Join AMS PTA and receive important announcements by e-mail. Contact Linda Okamoto at cho.prn.lo@cho.org.

SCRIP Orders: Safeway and Andronico's scrip must be purchased from eScrip (1-800-400-7878). Old Navy scrip is now available from eScrip. We are selling Natural Grocery scrip, and arranging for Albertson's Community Partners cards. Call Karen Moss at 526-2018 or Linda Okamoto at 525-6782. E-mail Linda at cho.prn.lo@cho.org.

Cornell Elementary School

SCRIP sales: Safeway scrip must be purchased from eScrip (1-800-400-7878). Andronico's scrip may be purchased from eScrip, or paper scrip may be purchased at school.

Natural Grocery and Berkeley Bowl SCRIP for sale Wednesday and Friday mornings from 8:15-8:45, and Wednesday after school.

Marin Elementary School

SCRIP for sale Monday and Friday mornings before school, at both early and late bird times. Orders can be placed in office at any time. Safeway scrip must be purchased from eScrip (1-800-400-7878). Andronico's scrip may be purchased from eScrip, or paper scrip may be purchased at school.

Natural Grocery and Albertson's scrip may be purchased at school.

Reminder: Please remember to save and turn in General Mills boxes for education to office.

Ocean View Elementary

SCRIP for sale Wednesday mornings before school on playground; ask for Kim Denton. SCRIP can also be ordered from office. Safeway scrip must be purchased from eScrip (800-400-7878). Andronico's scrip may be purchased from eScrip, or paper scrip may be purchased at school. We are now selling paper scrip from Ranch 99 Market.

RECYCLE used computer

printer cartridges from your home or office. Look for bins in the library soon.

AUSD Board of Education

- Sept. 5, Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Cornell Multi-Purpose Room
- Sept. 19, Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Cornell Multi-Purpose Room



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AUSD Calendar

Sept. 6 (Wednesday), First Day of School, Welcome!

Items? Call Kay Weinstein at 525-0363 or email: kayweinstein@yahoo.com

Plaza

FROM PAGE A1

Grunland was the manager of the El Cerrito Capwell's store from soon after the Plaza first opened in 1958 through 1967.

"The parent company of Macy's chose not to keep this store open and kept the one at Hilltop open instead and that was a tragic thing, we think. This is a terrific commercial location, always has been, and the store was very successful all the time it was here," Grunland said of Capwell's.

"That shopping center has served the citizens of El Cerrito very well for about 40 years — from about the mid-'50s to the mid-'90s." City Councilman and master of ceremonies Larry Damon said at the start of Tuesday's ceremony. "That era ended about five years ago when Capwell's closed."

"Now we are here to see the formal end of that era and actually the era of a new beginning," Damon said after praising the remaining Plaza merchants as "stalwart souls."

"God bless all of you," Damon said to the merchants. "I hope that your perseverance is rewarded by a new era of vital business activity."

Many came to witness civic history and remember old times.

"You know this building is really built — this thing is solid concrete," said Gene Friddle of Kensington, pointing to the structure that housed first Capwell's and later the Emporium.

"This old building here, Capwell's, was pretty popular, you know," Friddle said. "I'm not sure they're putting in the right stores; they need like a Macy's, maybe."

Friddle attended the demolition ceremony with wife, Kathryn, who worked in the store's chinaware department from 1963 to 1987. Kathryn's brother was on the construction crew that put up the building in the late 1950's.

"I came out to see the beginning of the demolition," Kathryn said. "It's a sad time because I worked in the Emporium for 24 years."

"I'm very sad," she said, but added that she's happy for the people who want something new at the Plaza. "I'm glad for them too, but for myself, I'm kind of sad about the Emporium."

Poetry festival celebrates writers, nature, and community

A free day of poetry, music, environmental activism! Former Poet Laureate Robert Hass heads a list of noted artists and activists heading the community to celebrate at the fifth annual Waters Environmental Poetry Festival from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 9, in Berkeley's Civic Center Park at Martin Luther King, Jr. Way at Center Street.

In addition to main-stage presentations, a "River Village" area will show exhibits by grass-roots literary and environmental organizations, and regional ecology groups will receive special recognition for their annual involvement in Creek and Coastal Clean-up Day. (Sept. 11) Strawberry Creek, an essential part of the East Bay watershed, will be "miked" as it flows beneath the festival site, providing a live continuous audio accompaniment to the main sound system.

For festival updates call 510-5476.

RECOMMENDATION 8: CotW recommends that council place policies to ensure that future bills dealing with any of the fiscal matters must disclose significant details. Further, the council or Redevelopment Agency should only enter into agreements in which all parties and investors are fully disclosed. This requirement is especially important when dealing with developers, consultants and compensation of city staff and council members.

Recommend

FROM PAGE A2

new reserve funding level should be set as part of the master plan of Recommendation 1; 4. As part of the annual budget cycle, the council should analyze all reserves for adequacy.

RECOMMENDATION 6: CotW recommends that the council evaluate the current level of services and staffing and the potential for reorganization. CotW also recom-

Labor Day Special

Monday, Sept. 4th

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\$15.00

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Julia Morgan's godchild talks about her memories

By Erika Mailman

Some information available about Julia Morgan.

Photo by

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'Extraordinary' a fitting description of Ruth Perry

In the Recreational Center at Live Oak Park (on Shattuck Avenue in Berkeley) hang some of the most colorful, exciting, and decorative banners. Long, and bright, they depict the excitement of the Berkeley Folk Dancers, and they brighten the hall and delight the senses.

They are the work of Ruth Perry.

"Several years ago members decided that the hall needed decorating. Ruth Perry suggested banners, recruited a committee of workers, and designed some 15 banners. Made of various fabrics, they feature dancers in costumes from various countries. They are beautiful, and really works of art," said Charlotte Weber, when she wrote to me. And I heartily agree.

And Weber added a P.S.: "Ruth Perry is an extraordinary person. Now over 80 years old, she makes jewelry and other crafts, which she sells each year to benefit various charities."

Of course, I had to meet this extraordinary woman, and I did. And she is extraordinary.

Ruth was born on a ranch near Placerville. It was a primitive place, she remembers, and she thinks that might be why she uses so many recycled materials in her work. "I can't get over being frugal," she says, and notes that she doesn't buy a lot of supplies. She uses lots of scraps, even in her metal works: scraps of material and scrap metals.

She went through school in Placerville, and although she was always interested in things artistic, she took no art courses during her early school years. "But the first thing I did when I graduated from college was to start taking art courses."

In college she studied public speaking and physical education. And she taught PE for a few years, but found "I didn't enjoy it that much."

Came World War II, and her three brothers all enlisted. "I didn't want to sit home worrying about them, so I signed up with the Red Cross." She spent most of the war in the South.

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brated its 25th year.

So now she doesn't do much Only volunteer work such as repairing jewelry for the Thrift Shop, gardening (the Perrys have three separate gardens around their home), indulging her interest in ecology by organizing a group called Earth Care that researches and puts out information about saving the Earth, and a few other interests. Oh, and she and husband Lewis (now retired from his with the UC Personnel Office) have belonged to the Berkeley Folk Dancers for about 30 years, "although we are both getting to the point where we do slow dancing." The folk dancers had a wonderful party at Live Oak to celebrate the Perrys' 50th anniversary.

She loves to cook and entertain, so they have lots of company. And did I mention her little books? She self-publishes the most delightful children's books. One, "The Whale's Tail," is full of little bits of information such as "a whale could weigh as much as 25 elephants". I learned something.

Oh, and music. She has always sung, and she and her husband have sung in many choirs and groups. In the Red Cross she did some entertaining. And about two years ago she decided she wanted to take piano lessons, which she has done.

And worked with her church to resettle families moved by wars, three from Poland and seven from Vulnu.

She speaks of her wonderful daughters (three) and grandchildren (four), very talented, of course. One daughter is an engineer in Guam, one a book designer and one in soil conservation.

So yes, Charlotte, I found Ruth Perry to be an extraordinary person.

I was pleased to hear from Charlotte Weber, and found her so interesting, herself that she will be my next subject. The woods are full of them! Interesting people, I mean. So please send me yours: Interesting people, events, organizations, etc. Please write to me at 555 Pierce St., #443, or email me at rgensner@aol.com.

I thought about telling her

I was in a bar at the Denver airport drinking a beer. It was 2:30 in the afternoon, not a time when I usually drink but today wasn't usual.

"How are you doing?" the waitress asked.

"I just dropped my son off at college. He's my youngest and I'm going home to a very empty nest. I'm not ready for this and I feel totally incompetent. I didn't understand anything they were talking about at orientation. I should have sent my husband on this mission. He would know what to do. I failed. I didn't get Sammy's computer set up. Figure out a schedule for him. I didn't even meet his roommate. I want to get out of here but my flight doesn't leave for another four hours and I can't even find a bookstore. I've never felt so empty in my life and I'm not even hungry. Everyone says I'll be OK, that I'll adjust but I don't know. I'm afraid The Big Nothing will get me. So as you can see, I'm not doing very well at all."

But I didn't.

"I'm fine," I said instead. "Just a check please."

Less than 48 hours ago Sammy and I arrived at the Denver airport. Phase one went fine. With Sammy navigating we found Boulder and our hotel without any problem and even went out for a nice dinner but the next morning everything fell apart.

We wasted 25 minutes of our 30-minute special permit campus pass creeping through traffic and looking for a parking spot within sight of Sammy's dorm. We schlepped his belongings inside, checked in, dragged everything upstairs and found his room. When we flung the door open Sammy's face dropped. The room was empty, small, institutional, more like a cell than a cozy home-away-from-home.

"It smells funny in here," Sammy said.

I tried to be positive, reassuring him that empty dorm rooms are always depressing, but being in that room brought back all my first day of college anxieties. We made his bed, shoved his unpacked bags into a corner and raced out with our campus map and schedule of events in hand.

In large, packed amphitheaters people spewed out information about

Going to college

graduation requirements, majors

times, health, resur-

res, travel together to be experienced, to be leaders, to be leaders, and to be leaders, year ahead. But we still had to be leaders.

At least we were

with a group of us,

said. "She'll help us."

You can come to me,

said.

I didn't believe him.

"They told us that parents allowed to come to meetings, visitors," he said adding, "You as well leave now. We have good-bye sometime and I have ready for that meeting."

It was noon and I hadn't p on leaving until 4:30. But I believed that Sammy was disme. It was time for me to go suspected that things would ter once I got my anxiety them.

In a parking lot we huddled not to cry. I watched disappear into the masses of students.

Driving to the airport I g the babies that had grown up, unknown new life, for the f I was no longer a kid. But where in all that was a glim happiness that my son was gone college and I wasn't.

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Fun for everyone at Back to School Celebration

Back to school time and it's time to celebrate local young people.

See you there!

Welcome receptions for new principals

Two receptions are being held to welcome new principals Sept. 7. Castro families and other community members will have an opportunity to meet Castro Elementary School's new principal, Barney Green, at the school's Back to School ice cream social 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Everyone is invited.

The event will be held in the multipurpose room of the school; enter on Lawrence Street, between Gladys and Donal.

New Harding Elementary School principal Barbara Taylor will be welcomed at a reception from 6:45 to 7 p.m. in Room 1 at the school at Fairmount and Ashbury avenues.

tifying her as Hearst's secretary, McMurray laughs "She'd probably roll over at Mountain View Cemetery if she knew."

McMurray says she never saw Morgan in any kind of romantic relationship, and that solitariness has of course fueled rumors that Morgan was perhaps a closet lesbian. McMurray denies that identification: "She wasn't anything. She was asexual. She wasn't heterosexual; she wasn't homosexual."

One thing about Morgan that I hadn't heard before was a fact McMurray would certainly know: she had a lisp!

McMurray's book

Right now the most well-regarded source on Morgan's work is Sara Bouteille's book "Julia Morgan, Architect." And while McMurray admires the book, she is aware of several errors in it.

"It's a beautiful book, but it's not extremely accurate in the job lists and some of the stories aren't accurate," says McMurray. The publisher, Abbeville Press, hired her when they ran a second edition of the book, to correct 100 different errors.

One error is the overestimation of Morgan's prolificacy: it is commonly held that Morgan created 600-700 buildings, but McMurray believes the number is closer to 500-600.

"People thought her jobs started with #1, and I think her jobs started

Portola PTA helping improve communication between home and school

This coming school year, the PTA will be starting a communication forum for parents, faculty and the administration via an email system.

■ On a monthly basis, you will receive the PTA newsletter, which contains information regarding upcoming school events, fundraising programs, student activities and ways our PTA monies are being spent.

■ You will receive the agenda before each PTA meeting. After each PTA meeting you will receive the approved minutes from the previous month.

■ On an as needed basis, information will be emailed to those on the email forum such as special fundraiser dates, program specials, PTA meetings.

Are you interested in being on the email forum?

with #101, which is very common in filing systems; they don't start with zero. There are a lot of mistakes in a lot of the books, because they didn't realize her billing addresses were what went on her office records, and not necessarily the house that was getting built, so it'll take me forever to get that corrected," says McMurray.

But now McMurray is prepared to do far more than correcting the errors of others: she has retired from teaching at the tender age of 57, and intends to write her own book about Morgan.

Through her research, McMurray has often had the joyful task of knocking on doors and telling people their home was designed by Morgan. "One house on El Cerrito in Piedmont, they knew their friends had a Julia Morgan on Seaview and they saw similarities on theirs, but they didn't know theirs was a Julia Morgan until I arrived with the plans, and they were very excited."

McMurray says she sometimes feels a "jolt" that helps her find buildings: "Sometimes you feel like (Morgan's) right there with you."

She occasionally leads tours of Morgan homes and says thoughtfully

West County School Watch

By Glen Price

If your answer is yes, please email your name and email address to Joann Steck-Bayat, PTA Email Coordinator, at jbayat@home.com

Also, check out Portola's web site at www.wccusd.k12.ca.us/portola/main.htm

Would you like to receive West County School Watch delivered to your email address? Send the message "subscribe" to pakglen@aol.com. Glen Price is a member of the WCCUSD school board; the opinions and views expressed in West County School Watch are his own and do not reflect official views or positions of the school board or WCCUSD unless otherwise noted.



Peters-Garcione

Naomi E. Peters, daughter of Jon and Nobuko (Mukai) Vicars and James L. Peters will marry Ryan G. Garcione on Saturday Sept. 16. Naomi graduated from El Cerrito High School in 1992. She then attended UC Berkeley where she graduated in 1996 with a major in Political Science.

Naomi currently works at a wireless startup in San Francisco.

Ryan G. Carcione, son of Augustino and Diane Carcione, was born and raised in San Jose. He graduated UC Berkeley with a BA in Psychology and was a Letterman in Track and Field. Ryan works at a Software startup in San Francisco.

The couple met while studying at Berkeley. The ceremony will be held at Old St. Hilary's Church and followed by a reception at the Corinthian Yacht Club, all in Tiburon.

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Enter \$160 General Public	
9/1 March Under the Arch	5:30pm
Main Street, Pleasanton	
USMC Band: Pipe bands, Dignitaries, Free!	
9/1 Friday Night Concert at the Fairgrounds	8pm
Tempest, Seven Nations, RUC & more!	
\$10 (650) 728-7402	
9/2 Caledonian Club's Saturday Night Dance	8pm
Filton Hotel, Pleasanton	
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How to spin bad publicity into gold



MARTIN SNAPP

Snapp Shots

Have you (like me) been watching in horrified fascination as Firestone and Ford Motor Co. destruct over this botched tire recall?

How can these guys get paid such big bucks for being so stupid? You don't have to be a public relations expert to realize that when you're involved in a scandal, the cardinal rule is to get way out ahead of it.

Watching these CEOs make fools of themselves, I couldn't help thinking of the smartest businessman I ever met: Jack Sullivan.

He was the owner of Bud's Ice Cream, which enjoyed a brief heyday back in the late '70s, from the era of If It's-It and before the advent of Haagen Dazs. One day, a worker in one of the Bud's stores was diagnosed with hepatitis. You can imagine the panic that caused.

What did Sullivan do? He did what every smart executive does: He turned lemons into lemonade. He realized that he was in for a lot of publicity. The only question was: Would it be good or bad? He decided to make it good.

He hired a whole slew of registered nurses and set up a nurse's station in each neighborhood Bud's store, giving out free gamma globulin shots to anyone who wanted it. There was no bureaucratic hassle; you didn't even have to claim you'd eaten any Bud's Ice Cream. All you had to do was ask.

I was producing a live, call-in talk show at KCBS at the time, and Sullivan came on the show for two hours and fielded inquiries from the listeners.

People would call and tell Sullivan which neighborhood they live in, and he'd direct them to the nearest Bud's store. One guy said, "I bought some Butter Brickle at the Taraval store; was I exposed?" and Sullivan replied, "No, but if you bought it at the Haight Street store, you'd better come in for a gamma globulin shot."

Get the picture? By the time he

was finished, he'd changed Bud's public image from "the ice cream store that causes hepatitis" to "the ice cream store that cures hepatitis."

And it was all tax-deductible, too.

Sure enough, when the next quarter's figures came out, Bud's sales had actually increased, despite the hepatitis scare. Or maybe because of it.

Smart guy, huh?

Too bad the folks running Ford and Firestone aren't.

Remember my column about the Ringling Bros. circus, when I said I'd rather watch the Pickle Family Circus or Cirque Du Soleil because they don't have animal acts?

Well, I failed to mention the most remarkable circus of all: Splash Circus. It has everything you could want: acrobats, jugglers, trapeze artists, tightrope walkers, contortionists, unicyclists and, of course, clowns.

And here's the catch: All the performers are between the ages of 6 and 15. But don't think of it as a kids' circus. This is a first-class, professional-quality troupe, whose members just happen to be kids. Most of them have been studying gymnastics for years, so they can tumble and fly with the best of 'em.

Take 12-year-old Alexis Hedrick. She's been studying gymnastics since she was 5, which is well over half her life.

Alexis' specialty is the Spanish Web, a long, twirling rope that she performs perilous stunts on, about 25 feet off the ground (without a net, yet).

Curiously, she says the stunts that get the biggest applause from the audience — such as twirling while attached by only one foot —

are actually a piece of cake. "It's practically the easiest thing to do," she says. "Some other stunts, which are really hard, don't get half as much applause."

Her favorite trick, which always gets a big hand and is hard to do, is one in which she wraps the rope two or three times around her waist, stretches out in a perfect horizontal position, and rolls down the rope like a yo-yo.

"It really hurts," she says, "but it looks <so> cool!"

The performers — about 20 in all — come from schools all over the East Bay. Alisyn is a seventh grader at Montera, and the others attend Archway, Canyon, Claremont, Lowell, Park Day, Prescott Elementary, Millennium High, East Bay School of the Arts & Sciences, and the École Bilingue.

Splash Circus will appear for two performances, Nov. 4-5, at the Alice Arts Center in Oakland, followed by five more performances, Nov. 18-26, at the Julia Morgan Theater in Berkeley.

This year's show, which the kids helped write themselves, is "Over The Rainbow Com," a virtual takeoff on "The Wizard Of Oz." In this version, Dorothy — named Dot, of course — travels through cyberspace to see the Webmaster (played by Alexis).

And since this is a cyber-spoof, Dot isn't a dog anymore. He's a mouse.

It's the end of an era! For the first time in almost 20 years, Bugs the cat will no longer be gracing Grand Avenue.

Bugs, a muted calico, spent the first 15 years at her life as the store mascot at Tiffany's Pet Shop, next door to the Grand Lake Theater. When Tiffany's closed a few years ago, Bugs moved up the street to Second To None. And all the many friends she'd made at Tiffany's over the years would stop by her new location and visit her.

Then Second To None closed last

year, and Bugs moved again — this time, to the Vintage Parlor & Gallery, across the street from where Tiffany's used to be. And once again, her fans would drop in and say hi.

But the Vintage Parlor & Gallery is closing today. And unless another store on Grand Avenue steps forward to offer her a home, Bugs will go into a well-deserved retirement at owner Pam Drake's house.

So here's fair warning to all you Bugs fans: It's now or never. Stop by and say hi to her today, while you still can.

Meanwhile, Berkeley Realtors Inc. and Carol Services have come up with a unique rating system for the houses they sell.

At any other Realtor, the houses are given a numeric rating from the Fair Isaac Credit Rating Bureau. But not at the Serkes' firm, Berkeley Homes. Instead, they give the houses an LTC rating — short for "Lucy the Cat."

Lucy is their 10-year-old calico. Every house is rated from one paw to four, four paws being the best.

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Phone Martin Snapp at 510-273-9039, write him c/o Hills Newspapers, 1995 Mountain Blvd., Oakland CA 94611, or e-mail him at catman@california.com.

ARTS BRIEFS

Bella Musica looking for singers to perform

BERKELEY — Bella Musica invites singers to join in rehearsals beginning Sept. 12 for its winter concert scheduled Dec. 16 and 17.

The program, under the direction of Arlene Sagan, will include Handel's "Messiah," the "Alieluia" by Randall Thompson, the "Agnus Dei" (transcribed from the "Adagio for Strings") by Samuel Barber and two "Dona Nobis Pacem," — one from the "Mass" by Leonard Bernstein and the other from the Mass in B minor by Bach. Rehearsals are 7 to 10 p.m. Tuesdays through Dec. 12 at St. Ambrose Church, 1145 Gilman St.

There will be a preview and sing-along at 7 p.m. Sept. 5 at the church.

Bella Musica is seeking singers who learn music easily and can blend. For more details or to schedule an audition, call 510-525-5393.

'Rivals' at Masquers

RICHMOND — The Masquers Playhouse continues its performance of "The Rivals," by Richard Brinsley Sheridan, through Sept. 30.

Performances are at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2:30 p.m. Sept. 10, 17 and 24 at the playhouse, 105 Park Place, in Point Richmond.

Tickets are \$10 general, and reservations are required.

On Sept. 28, a performance of "The Rivals" and dinner at the Hotel Mac is offered for \$28. Call 510-236-4988 for dinner and show reservations. Call 510-232-4031.

Art center hosting exhibit

RICHMOND — The Richmond Center, 2540 Barrett Ave., has exhibits running through Nov. 11. "Hecho en Califas: The Decade, 1990-99," is an exhibition by 31 California Latino and indigenous artists. Main Gallery, "Luzia Stein's exhibition," paintings ranging bold, colorful patterns to architectural shapes and figures. South Gallery, "Raymond Wood/Olio Negro Design Work Exhibition," large-scale acrylicings on canvas, is in the West Wing.

On Sept. 16, the gallery has a free reception for the artists to 3:30 p.m. and a celebration dinner, music and poetry, 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Fridays and noon to 4:30 p.m. days. Details: 510-620-6772.

Koenig, Ross prints paintings on display

ALBANY — "Alone Together," prints on paper by Conrad Ross, oil paintings by Janice Koenig, will be on display at the Albany Gallery through Sept. 30.

The gallery, at 1251 Solano, is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. days through Saturdays and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sundays. A reception held from 6 to 8 p.m. today is free. Call 510-526-

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Real Estate & Home

The Montclarion, The Berkeley Voice, The Piedmonter, The Journal

September 1, 2000

Section B

Dian Hymer Do you need an agent to purchase a home? [B2]

Open Homes See which homes have come on the East Bay Market [B9]

Weekly Sales Keep in touch with East Bay home prices [B11]

Lending a hand to the children



AGENTS REPRESENTING THE COMMUNITY Fund of Pacific Union's Montclair office present a \$3,000 contribution to East Bay Agency for Children board member, Alice Akawie and Director of Development Susan Corlett.

DENNIS EVANSKY

Median home price rose 10.3% in July; sales down 15%

Sales of existing homes in California in July decreased 14.9 percent and the median home price rose 10.3 percent compared to the same period a year ago, the California Association of Realtors and Real Estate Solutions, a real estate information service, recently reported.

"While there are plenty of buyers out looking, the number of homes for sale remains low, and this is continuing to drive prices higher," said C.A.R. President Richard F. Gaylord.

Closed escrow sales of existing, single-family detached homes in California totaled 474,270 in July at a seasonally-adjusted annualized rate, according to

information collected by C.A.R. from more than 90 Multiple Listing Services (MLS) statewide.

Statewide home resale activity was down 14.9 percent from the 557,420 sales pace recorded in July 1999. Resale activity posted a decrease of 15.7 percent in July 2000 compared to June 2000.

The statewide sales figure represents what the total number of homes sold during 2000 would be if sales maintained the July pace throughout the year. It is adjusted to account for seasonal factors that typically influence home sales.

See REPORT, Page B2

Housing affordability down again

Housing affordability in California fell to 30 percent in June, down 6 percentage points from June 1999, according to the California Association of Realtors. Nationwide, affordability was 52 percent in June, down from 54 percent a year ago.

C.A.R.'s monthly housing affordability index measures the percentage of households that can afford to purchase a median-priced home in California. C.A.R. also reports housing affordability indexes for regions within the state.

The index is the most fundamental measure of housing well-being in the state. At 9 percent, San Francisco was the least affordable county in the state, followed by Contra Costa with 12 percent and San Mateo with 13 percent. In Southern California, San Diego County was the least affordable at 23 percent, followed by Orange and Ventura counties at 25 percent. In Los Angeles County, affordability was 39 percent.

With housing affordability at 69 percent, the High Desert remains the most affordable region in California.

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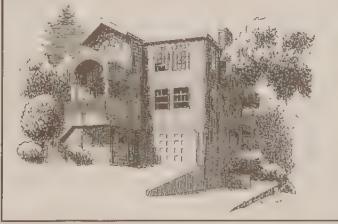
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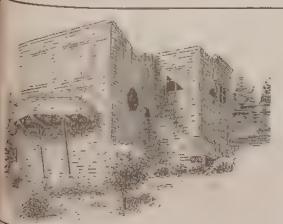
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Working with your old house

Many Bay Area residents know the joys of living in an older home. Many such homes boast a high level of craftsmanship, unique architectural detailing and fine woodwork—all the results of solid construction techniques of days gone by.

Often, though, windows and porches stand in need of replacement, foundations need bracing and surfaces need to be matched. And just how can the owner of one of these fine homes find help in repairing or replacing outdated kitchens and bathrooms?

The Building Conservancy of Northern California may have the answer to all the challenges an owner of a unique, older home faces. The conservancy will play host to a noted panel of architects, contractors and homeowners from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 16 at the North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Ave. in Berkeley.

Learn more about the style of your home. The workshop will begin with a visual overview of resi-

dential styles from the Victorian era to 1950s and 1960s Modern.



LEARN TO RESTORE your kitchen to its former beauty at the Saturday, Sept. 16 workshop.

Learn the most appropriate way to rehab your home. Hear about and see slides of specific homes that were rehabilitated with an eye toward preservation.

Bring photos of that odd room or architectural detail for an informal discussion with the panelists.

The fee for the Sept. 16 workshop is \$65, \$100 for two persons from the same household, and includes lunch and materials. Seating is limited. Reserve by Sept. 8 by mailing a check payable to the Building Conservancy of Northern California P.O. Box 5262 Berkeley, CA 94705.

The Building Conservancy of Northern California, a California nonprofit, was organized to facilitate and promote the recognition, preservation, restoration, rehabilitation and reuse of historic and/or historically important buildings in Northern California.

For more information about the conservancy, call Monica Rohrer at 510-525-7805. To learn more about the workshop, call Jeff Eichenfield at 510-558-7130.



THIS INVITING LIVING ROOM is just part of Julie Hardgrove and Cliff Cline's stunning rehab on their Oakland home. Hardgrove and Cline will speak at the upcoming conservancy workshop.

You can never have too much storage space

By Nick Harder

THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

To that old adage, "You can never be too rich or too thin," my wife adds the following: "You can never have enough storage space." Based on all the stuff we've collected over the years, she speaks the truth.

While I certainly haven't been able to do much lately about the "thin" part of that adage, I've definitely found ways to add more storage space. So can you. Maybe not exactly the way we did it—though some ways may be possible—but a few of the things we did may spur your own ideas.

For instance, let's say you want additional closet space in your master bedroom. When I looked at the first set of blueprints for our master bedroom, I added closet space along one wall.

When we were in the framing stage, our site superintendent asked if we didn't want to do the same along another wall in that room.

Trouble was, that was the side where the head of the bed would be and we wanted bookcases on each side of the bed against that wall. The answer? We had bookcases built which act as doors to the his and hers closets in back. The oak bookcases are attached to a solid door that is hung by piano hinges. (These are about 60-inch hinges instead of the usual 3- or 4-inch hinges.)

These are closets that act more for storage of occasionally used items such as luggage and seasonal wear and my wife's costumes. (Doesn't everyone have a costume closet?)

To play fair, my side of the closet doesn't have costumes, just sets of clothes that have different waistlines. Ah, I love getting older.

Now, you don't have to have bookcase doors put on a closet you build, but the basic idea for adding a closet is the same. A clothes closet should have a depth of at least 22 inches, though most have 26 inches. (Be sure to check with your building department to find whether there's a required size.)

Figure the width of a coat hanger, then add a couple of

rooms that is perfect for a kid's toys or for crawling in and playing.

All we did was to have the front of each area framed much like a big cabinet with two 4-foot-high doors attached to simple, 2-by-4 face frames in each of the four areas (two areas to a room).

In my garage, I had a little open space between the entrance to the garage from the house and the

every job around the house as quickly as you should.)

A few words of caution before you leap into a storage project.

First, check with your building department to find out whether you need a permit for the type of construction you're planning. This is especially important for your own safety—if you may be dealing with electrical changes.

Second, if you plan to go into a wall, make sure you know what you're doing and know what's behind it. You don't want to break through an existing electrical line or plumbing line that might be hidden behind drywall or plaster.

Granted, not everyone has enough room in a bedroom, a roof that slants that can make a kid's storage area, or a garage in which they can make a partial wall for storage. But there are probably a lot of areas around your own home—or a home you may be considering—that will afford some type of extra storage.

That's why it's important in touring homes—whether it's a new model home or an existing home—that you look at spaces that may be used for storage. It might mean the difference between buying a home or just being a looker.

Need more storage space in your bathroom? How about cutting out the drywall in between some of the studs on a wall? (Just make sure you're not cutting into any electrical or plumbing.)

Think of those areas as potentially large medicine cabinets. After all, that's all your medicine cabinet probably is; just something inset between two studs.

With a little creativity, you might actually utilize every possible storage nook in your home.

Always check with your city's building department to find out whether you need a permit for the type of construction you're planning. This is especially important for your own safety.

inches on each side for bulky things.

Remember, too, that the measurement you take is for the inside space. You'll probably have a few inches more of depth because you'll have to create a front wall in which to frame closet doors.

Of course, not every closet has to be exclusively for clothes. Why not one for storing sweaters, shoes and small boxes of all kinds? That kind of closet doesn't necessarily have to be a certain depth, at least not as deep as a clothes closet. You can build one to suit your needs.

For example, when we had our house built, my wife and I didn't have children but planned for them. In two of the bedrooms upstairs, we found a way to add more storage space.

Where our roof slopes down toward the front of the house, we found about 40 square feet of low-ceiling storage space in each of the

garage floor. On a visit years ago, my father looked at that space and said: "Why don't you put up a partial wall and hang stuff on it?"

So, I did. I constructed the wall basically the same way all walls are fashioned, out of that old reliable, the 2-by-4. I attached a 4-foot length to the beam on the ceiling above, another 4-footer to the floor (with concrete nails), then two 8-footers to the top and bottom 2-by-4s. And, just like a conventional wall, I used 2-by-4s as vertical studs every 12 inches. In between I used 2-by-4s as lateral braces.

Because the stuff I wanted to store on the wall was small, I used a 4-by-8-foot pegboard to cover both sides.

On one side, I hang mops and brooms, dustpans and a couple of long, outdoor electrical cords. On the other, I hang dozens of small items I've purchased and just haven't used yet. (See, you're not the only one who doesn't get to

median home prices typically in both local home price appreciating and often, large shifts in the composition of housing market activity.

Some of the variations in median home prices may be exaggerated due to compositional changes in housing demand. Among the highlights of July localized data collected by C.A.R. and Transamerica Intellitex.

The top 10

Statewide, the 10 cities and counties with the highest median home prices in California during July 2000 were:

- Los Altos Hills, \$3,200,000;
- Hillsborough, \$2,000,000;
- Monte Sereno, \$1,402,500;
- Los Altos, \$1,400,000;
- Woodside, \$1,250,000;
- Belvedere/Tiburon, \$1,224,000;
- Saratoga, \$1,084,000;
- Los Gatos, \$829,000;
- Palo Alto, \$816,000;
- San Marino, \$760,000

Statewide, the 10 cities and counties with the greatest median home price increases in July 2000 compared to the same period a year ago:

- Los Altos Hills,
- Los Altos,
- Rancho Mirage,
- Laguna Hills,
- Benicia,
- Fillmore,
- Palm Springs,
- Half Moon Bay,
- Hillsborough and
- Desert Hot Springs

The California Association of Realtors is one of the largest state trade organizations in the United States with more than 95,000 members dedicated to the advancement of professionalism in real estate. C.A.R. is headquartered in Los Angeles.

Report

FROM PAGE B1

The median price of an existing, single-family detached home in California during July 2000 was \$243,240, a 10.3 percent increase over the \$220,530 median for July 1999, C.A.R. reported.

The July 2000 median price de-

creased 0.3 percent compared to June 2000, C.A.R., in conjunction with Real Estate Solution's MetroScan software and information product, reported that 90 percent of California cities and communities showed an increase in their respective median home prices from a year ago.

Highlights of C.A.R.'s resale housing figures for July 2000:

- C.A.R.'s Unsold Inventory Index for existing, single-family detached homes in July 2000 was 3.9 months, compared to 3.5 months for the same period a year ago. The index indicates the number of months needed to deplete the supply of homes on the market at the current sales rate.

■ Thirty-year fixed mortgage interest rates averaged 8.15 percent during July 2000, up from 7.63 percent in July 1999, according to the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp.

Adjustable mortgage interest rates averaged 7.28 percent in July 2000, up from 5.99 percent in July 1999.

■ The median number of days it took to sell a single-family home was 30 days in July 2000, down from 37 days for the same period a year ago.

In a separate report covering more localized statistics generated by C.A.R. and Real Estate Solution's MetroScan service, 316 of 351 California communities showed an increase in their respective median home prices from a year ago. Large changes in local

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Requiem for a museum

I am often asked where the best art museums are in the Bay Area. Sadly, to be honest I have to tell them "There aren't any." Anyone who has visited museums in New York City, Washington, D.C., Chicago, knows that these cities can rightfully be proud of their collections of fine and applied arts.

By some historic accident, the wealthy classes of the Bay Area chose not to collect great paintings or sculptures during the later 19th and early 20th centuries, when many of their counterparts in other large American cities were doing so. Thus, there is not a single world class Impressionist or Post Impressionist painting in the permanent collections of any Bay Area museum.

The Museum of Modern Art in San Francisco, designed by the renowned Swiss-Italian architect Mario Botta in the early 1990s, is a truly wonderful example of Post Modern architecture.

And the recently restored Museum of the Legion of Honor is a fine example of Beaux Arts neoclassic architecture from the early 1920s.

The De Young Museum in Golden Gate Park is San Francisco's oldest art museum. The collection dates back to 1893, when the publisher of the San Francisco Chronicle, Charles De Young, decided to hold an international exposition in Golden Gate Park. He was inspired by the success of the great World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, which had drawn a phenomenal 28 million visitors before it closed on October 31, 1893.

The nucleus of the De Young Museum's collection was created from the exhibits of several of the departments at the Columbian Exposition, which Mr. De Young had convinced the authorities in Chicago to donate to his new museum. Thus, the African, Oceanic, Pre-Columbian, and Native American collections on display here are among the finest in the Western United States.

The current building that houses the museum was designed in 1916 by the eccentric architect Louis Christian Mullgardt. It was patterned after Mullgardt's design for the Court of the Ages building at the 1915 Panama

Pacific Exposition in San Francisco. The style of the present De Young building is Spanish Colonial Revival, a fitting choice for a building that was meant to honor the rich Hispanic heritage of Early California.

In the 1970s, the De Young was stripped of its ornate Spanish Baroque Churrigueresque decorations as part of a supposed "earthquake safety" measure. Nevertheless, this venerable old building has stood as the symbol of the fine arts in San Francisco for nearly 85 years, and has been a familiar beacon for all those seeking such treasures when they enter Golden Gate Park. But it will only remain so until the end of this year, unfortunately.

A few years ago, the directors of the San Francisco Fine Arts Museums decided they were dissatisfied with the present De Young Museum building, and needed to replace it with a brand new facility. The story of how this demolition project was forced onto an unwilling public, the aesthetic nightmare chosen to replace the old museum building, and



By Mark
A. Wilson

the self-serving rationale given by the museum directors for why this is at all necessary, provide a tragic lesson in why it is so important to fight for the preservation of our existing architectural heritage.

The board of directors of the De Young Museum first took their proposal to the voters of San Francisco, in the form of a ballot measure for public funding to begin demolition and replacement of the old building. The electorate voted down the funding initiatives for this project — twice!

The directors changed tactics and decided to proceed with their pet project through mostly private funding.

They hired the conservative Swiss architectural firm of Herzog and De Meuron to design a 1960's type High Modern building. Their concept was roundly criticized by architects, environmentalists, and thousands of citizens via petition. There were several major problems with the new design.

First, it was built of inorganic materials, such as concrete walls and metal shed roofs. Second, it was much too large a structure for its site, looming over the concourse like a beached battleship.

Third, the sterile and brutalist style of the building clashed with the historic structures surrounding it, such as the Japanese Tea Garden and the Bandshell. Fourth, it had an awkward, trapezoid-shaped 160-foot tower at one end, which stuck up like a sore thumb above the greenery of the park.

At a public meeting held by the museum's directors last year, they said that they would welcome public reaction. Just the opposite happened, according to Joe Fusco, spokesman for a group called People for a New De Young, which opposes the Herzog and De Meuron building. The meeting was dominated by museum employees, many of whom had told Fusco's group beforehand that they hated the new building but couldn't openly oppose it for fear of losing their jobs.

Comments by opponents of the new design were curtailed or missed so arbitrarily that many left disgruntled before an informal survey taken. The results of this very skewed survey, according to Fusco, were 75 percent opposed to the design. 35 percent

See WILSON, Page B7

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\$39,900 HILLMONT DR. Speculated view lot located between 7544 & 7552 Hillmont. Margaret Lomba (510) 814-4829

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\$318,000 328 NEWTON AVE. Charming home in great location. 3 beds, 1 bath, formal dining room, fireplace, hardwood floors, large sized yard, detached garage and long driveway. Tere Lee (510) 814-4840

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\$499,000 6459 MELVILLE DR. Piedmont Contemporary single bedroom, 1 bath home with wood deck. Four full baths. Large kitchen, laundry room, formal dining room, living room, fireplace, and more. Remodeled kitchen, newer roof. Bev & George Williams (510) 814-4831 Virtual Tour on www.hbrhomes.com

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\$619,000 343 9TH ST. Chinatown Golden Gate Store Front Business Condo. 2nd floor can be added for extra space/income. Good for food business. Ringo Lu (510) 814-4848

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\$179,000 325 VERNON ST. 102, Views of SF and bay! Beautiful 1 bedroom, 1 bath unit with fireplace, vinyl floor, tasteful window treatments and mirrored closet door. Appliances and home warranty included. Tere Lee (510) 814-4840

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\$275,000 2519 GALLEON PLACE. Bright 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath, townhome, freshly painted and ready to move in. Large deck, fireplace, formal dining room, kitchen, family room, hardwood floors, and 2-car attached garage. Dann Vinall (510) 814-4824

SOLD

\$269,000 3120 BIRDSALL AVE. Maxwell Park! Single level 2 bedroom, 1 bath home with newer kitchen, refinished hardwood floors, custom blinds, Stove, refrigerator, washer & dryer, and custom built-in nook all stay. Detached garage has plus room and utility cabinets. Jean Powers (510) 814-4822

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\$309,500 14100 SANTIAGO ROAD. Single story ranch home on large corner lot. Meticulously maintained with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, large kitchen, family room, hardwood floors, and 2-car attached garage. Dann Vinall (510) 814-4824

SOLD

\$379,000 459 BROADMOOR BLVD. Charming California bungalow on corner lot. Formal dining room, kitchen, breakfast room, large living room, fireplace, and many upgrades. Updated kitchen, family room, hardwood floors, and 2-car attached garage. Dann Vinall (510) 814-4824 Virtual Tour on www.hbrhomes.com

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Hernan Luna
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Alberto Mainardi
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Rosalie Marshall
French, Italian, Spanish



Sheila Sabine
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'Don't Borrow Trouble,' Freddie Mac advises

■ Oakland part of nationwide campaign

■ VA - Freddie Mac today it was teaming up with 12 major cities to launch "Don't Borrow Trouble" campaigns that will alert millions of Americans about the dangers of predatory lending and set up telephone numbers they can call to get help with problems.

"Predatory lending represents a frontal assault on homeowners all across America. Freddie Mac's 'Don't Borrow Trouble' campaign is a move to show lenders that it is not going to support this practice by purchasing these mortgages," said Senator Paul S. Sarbanes (D-Md), the ranking minority member of the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee.

"Through consumer education, Freddie Mac is providing borrowers with a renewed sense of hope and opportunity for the American dream of homeownership."

Freddie Mac will provide seed funding and technical assistance over the next year to help the selected communities launch the local "Don't Borrow Trouble" campaigns.

Additional on-site training will be provided by the Boston-based Na-

Freddie Mac will provide seed funding and technical assistance over the next year to help the selected communities launch the local "Don't Borrow Trouble" campaigns.

tional Consumer Law Center, which provided training for Boston's cam-

aign. The local "Don't Borrow Trouble" campaigns will be carried out by local government agencies in cooperation with a wide range of local partners, including non-profit housing providers, credit counseling agencies, fair housing associations, industry groups and responsible lenders.

"Freddie Mac is committed to being an industry leader in the fight against predatory lending practices. That is why we are working with lo-

cal leaders and community groups across the nation to educate potential borrowers about predatory lending practices that are trapping too many families in loans they cannot afford and stripping away their hard-earned home equity," said Dwight Robinson, Freddie Mac's senior vice president of corporate relations.

"'Don't Borrow Trouble' is a proven and valuable tool in the fight against predatory lending."

"'Don't Borrow Trouble' is the best new idea I've seen in the fight against abusive lending practices. By bringing America's families this

practical and effective way to spot and avoid those 'too good to be true' deals, predatory lenders will find it harder to trick new customers into keeping them in business," said Mayor Marc H. Morial, New Orleans, La., and vice president, United States Conference of Mayors.

Making the "Don't Borrow Trouble" campaign available in cities across the country is the latest in a series of actions by Freddie Mac to help protect borrowers from predatory-lending practices.

These steps include a ban on the purchase of mortgages with single-premium credit insurance policies and requiring subprime lenders to accurately and fully report borrower credit files to credit repositories, as well as the introduction of innovative loan products for borrowers with credit issues.

"I am very pleased that Freddie Mac will help other mayors implement Boston's 'Don't Borrow Trouble' campaign," said Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino.

"As Mayor, I want to protect Boston's homeowners from those predators who would rob them of the equity and security of their homes. This awareness campaign, along with Freddie Mac's other efforts, will help mayors across the country to prevent the foreclosures and abandonment that follow these predators."

Predatory lenders continue to aggressively market mortgages to vulnerable homeowners on exorbitant terms," added Gary Klein, a senior attorney at the National Consumer Law Center, which will provide local training.

"We are pleased to join with Freddie Mac to educate community leaders on the dangers of predatory lending," he said.

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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY - \$338,000. Laundry with agency. Moon Tam 747-1620

SAN LORENZO

17380 VIA SAN ARDO - SLEEPY SAN LORENZO. Single family home with 3 bedrooms, 1 NEW bath, living & dining rooms, hardwood floors and nice large yard. Darien Gardner 748-1104.

971 BURKHARD AVE. \$294,000. GREAT LOCATION, GREAT VALUE. Close to shopping, transportation & recreation. 3 good sized bedrooms & huge family room. Never paint, carpet & window coverings. Ann Bracco, 748-1104.

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OPEN SAT & SUN 1-4:30. 75 SANDPOINT DR. \$465,000. Spectacular Mountain Bay home with bonus space & bonus access. 3 bedrooms, 3 baths. Visit online: www.75sandpoint.com Michael Studebaker, 510-748-1129.

EL CERRITO: Charming bungalow with excellent floor plan. Spacious living room. Formal dining room, large kitchen. Two bedrooms plus updated bath. Fenced yard, deck, detached garage for storage. Walk to Fat Apples or Solano Avenue. Great condition! 706 Pomona Avenue offered for \$329,900

RICHMOND VIEW: Three bedroom Spanish Mediterranean style home perfect for entertaining. Gracious living room with vaulted ceilings, fireplace and space for grand piano. Large dining room plus a sunny breakfast room. Lots of light, loaded with storage, kitchen space galore! Needs some TLC. Good area! 600 McLaughlin Street offered for \$319,900

Oakland Medical Office for Lease: Across the street from Summit Hospital (Pill Hill area), approx. 900 square feet. Includes parking, janitorial, utilities, alarm. Classy old world style building with four offices. Perfect for medical or related use. Location!!!! 419 30th Street, Oakland; lease offered at \$1200 per month.

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This four-unit building offers a rare opportunity for the investor or owner/occupant. Each unit features 2BR/1BA, spacious living & dining rooms. Mindy Scott

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Great home in a convenient location. Three bedrooms, two baths, formal dining room, eat-in kitchen and private courtyard off kitchen. Kurt Buchholz

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Montclair Lot \$55,000
Montclair upslope lot w/beautiful vistas. Debbi DiMaggio

Do I need an agent to buy a home?

Perhaps you've surfed the Internet and landed on Web sites offering information about homes for sale.

Or, maybe you've scanned the classified realty ads and happened upon a home that's for sale by owner.

Why should you use an agent, you might wonder, if it's so easy to find listings of homes for sale on your own?

The Internet revolution has given the consumer access to a wealth of information about homes for sale. But, consider the source of the bulk of that information.

Realtor.com and Homeseekers.com, two vast Internet sites with tens of thousands of home-for-sale listings, gather their listing information directly from realtor-sponsored multiple listing services.

A multiple listing service (MLS) is an organization of real estate agents who share information about their listings.

This gives all member agents the opportunity to sell a listing and in so doing, it provides more market exposure for the seller's property.

Sellers list their homes for sale with real estate agencies because they prefer to have an agent represent them in the sale of their property.

If you're interested in buying a property that is already listed for sale by a real estate agent, you might as well have an agent represent you. The seller has already agreed to pay for this.

If you're inquiring about a listing you find on the Internet or in a classified realty ad, be careful that you don't inadvertently find yourself working with the wrong agent.

A listing advertisement often directs you to the listing agent. This is the agent who represents the seller. It's fine to gather information about the property from the seller's agent.

But, when it comes right down to actually making an offer to buy a property, you may feel more com-

fortable having a different agent represent you.

Don't rely on verbal promises.

To avoid misunderstandings, let the listing agent know that you haven't selected an agent yet but that you're in the process of making that decision.

Or, if you already have an agent, let the listing agent know.

Some homes are offered for sale without an agent.

These are called For Sale By Owners or FIZBOS. You can find by-owner listings on the Internet and in the classified realty ads.

Sellers usually choose to sell their homes on their own to save the realty commission.

Whether or not these properties can be purchased at a bargain price depends on how realistic the seller is.

What often happens in FIZBO negotiations is that both the buyer and the seller feel entitled to save the amount of the commission, so the negotiations bog down.

If you do decide to buy a home directly without a real estate agent,

Real Estate Forum



By Dian Hymer

have the property appraised, even if you're paying all cash, to make sure that you're not overpaying for the property.

Also, hire a knowledgeable real estate attorney to draft or review your purchase agreement to make sure that you're adequately protected. A real estate purchase agreement is a binding legal document but only if it's in writing and signed by all parties.

Don't rely on verbal promises.

Dian Hymer is a top-producing broker associate with Coldwell Banker in the Montclair/Piedmont office and author of "Starting Out: The Complete Home Buyer's Guide." Available in book stores or from Chronicle Books: (800) 722-6657.

Supporting educational teamwork

GNOMUS, INC.

Mark Palmer, President of eHomesAlameda.com Realty, has offered to donate \$3,000 as a matching grant in support of an exciting educational project being conducted by Gnomus, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational corporation based in Alameda.

Gnomus, Inc., under the guidance of its founder and Educational Director, Dr. Nome Baker, is working with the Alameda Unified School District, in partnership with U.C. Berkeley's Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology, the Chabot Space and Science Center, and WestEd (a well-known educational research organization based in S.F. and Oakland) to develop an innovative method of teaching science using Gnomus Card Decks (©Gnomus, Inc.).

These are hands-on activities that encourage students to develop their team-working, problem-solving and communication skills while learning biological, physical and space science units.

The materials are being developed and field-tested in collaboration with teachers and facilitators at Lincoln Middle School, the Arthur Andersen Community Learning Center at Encino.

Dr. Baker, a physiologist and bio-

nal High School and at Alameda High School.

Preliminary evaluations by middle school students and teachers have been highly favorable.

In particular teachers and other educators who have visited the Gnomus classes have noted how the materials are able to actively engage almost all students in learning complex scientific material and in helping each other in their problem solving, and in testing hypotheses.

Funds are needed for further development and printing of scientific units requested for the fall semester and for an independent evaluation of the educational value of the units.

After the evaluation and final editing, Gnomus Card Decks will be printed and distributed to other schools in the Alameda Unified School District and to other school districts in the Bay Area and throughout the state.

Eventually, it is hoped that the card decks will be used on a national scale.

Any proceeds from the sale or licensing of Gnomus Card Decks will be used to develop additional educational materials and to provide scholarships, mentoring and tutoring for low-income students.

Dr. Baker, a physiologist and bio-

chemist, is a former career research scientist who directed a large laboratory at the V.A. Medical Campus in Los Angeles and was an adjunct professor at UCLA Medical School and at U.C. Berkeley for over 35 years before retiring to work in public school education.

He has worked extensively with various public schools in Los Angeles and in the Bay area, especially in collaboration with the UC Berkeley's MESA outreach program.

He donates his services and all of his intellectual materials to his non-profit organization.

Mark Palmer, president of eHomesAlameda.com Realty, has been supporting Gnomus, Inc. for several years, not only by offering yearly do-

nations, but also by allowing Gnomus, Inc. to share space in his office in downtown Alameda at a nominal, well-below market rental rate.

He urges the community to join him and the teachers and students of the Alameda Unified School District in supporting this extremely exciting educational innovation.

Tax-free donations should be sent in the form of checks made out to Gnomus, Inc.

They may be mailed to: Mark Palmer, eHomesAlameda.com Realty, 2504 Santa Clara Ave., Suite #7, Alameda, CA 94501.

Inquiries may be addressed to Dr. Nome Baker, 115 Parfait Lane, Alameda, CA 94502 (email: nomebaker@aol.com).

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Trends shift in profile of homebuyers

By Alan J. Heavens
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

He has found that many of us are not prepared to be homeowners.

"This is not a generational saver," said Artur, a broker for than 25 years.

Their credit card debt is

lethal.

"They buy expensive cars

have to stretch to afford, and understand why they can't afford a mortgage, too."

Besides being heavily in debt

short on down payments and

costs, many of today's first

buyers don't seem to stay at one

place long.

"They seem to do a lot of job

switching," Artur said.

"It's usually seven months

six months there. Lenders have

of trouble with that."

In his experience, first-time

buyers' reasons for buying a house

from those of their parents

generation — and from those

of Realtors' survey, in which

than a third of first-time buyers

own their own home.

Artur's clients "seem to be

happy where they live now, are

having problems with the landlords

don't like their neighborhood,"

said.

"Pride of ownership motivates

their parents, but problems seem

motivate them."

Married buyers still predom

Only 6 percent of homebuyers

unmarried couples last year

The percentage of unmarried

female homebuyers has been

increasing over the decade, v

percentage of single male bu

been dropping.

Although the survey showed

the percentage of second-ho

declined slightly over the de

the volume is higher because the

doubled from 1989 to 1999.

The Realtors' survey said m

people preferred new houses

whether they bought it or not.

According to the Realtors' sur

the typical buyer took eight we

to search for a house last year

looked at 10 houses before bu

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RICHMOND ANNEX

BAY VIEWS \$269,950
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signed not only to prevent lenders from contacting borrowers and brokers directly, but also to ensure privacy, as many lenders do not want to post their rates publicly.

Everything is anonymous initially. The mortgage broker takes a loan application, verifies the income, assets and credit of the borrower. At a point where the mortgage broker feels it is time to "shop" the loan, it is posted on the system. Both IMX and LoanTrader are now Web site based, making broker access much easier.

During the initial two years, IMX upgraded their software five or six times while they worked the bugs out of the system.

Unfortunately, we were always one upgrade behind. IMX did send us software that provides a "bridge" that interfaces with our mortgage software.

If a 21- to 30-day lock was requested, the lender would not need the loan package for at least seven to 10 days.

For the mortgage broker, this system shortens the "shopping" process while offering the borrower the best possible rate.

It also opens an additional lender for our borrowers.

For the lenders, this system offers an affordable marketing tool to get those loans without hiring an additional sales staff and all the overhead that managing a staff requires.

Although the lenders bid on the loan package that does not mean that the clients will automatically be approved.

We had a client with perfect

credit, high but acceptable ratios (ratios are that qualifying numbers that measure your income versus your housing and debt expense.) Unfortunately their home didn't qualify. The home was the ultimate fixer upper project in process.

Mortgage Madness



By
Karen
Senzig

in favor, and 48 percent unsure. The directors later trumpeted that their design had received "approval from 83 percent of the audience," since "only 17 percent opposed it."

This project has now proceeded to the next stage, the completion of an Environmental Impact Report. Fusco characterized the results of this report as "pure hogwash." For example, the EIR says they expect about 650,000 visitors a year, twice the total last year. But critics say a more realistic figure will be 1.2 million, because the new complex will include a huge restaurant, a much larger giftshop, an auditorium, two corporate party spaces, artist's workshops, office space in the 14-story adjacent highrise, and twice the current exhibit area.

All of these facilities will create new traffic and parking problems that will make the current situation seem like a picnic, Fusco points out. In recent months, there have been some minor modifications of the design, in the face of heated criticism from 40 prominent San Francisco architects. These changes consist of sheathing the exterior of the museum in wooden siding, and making the adjacent highrise structure more symmetrical.

But these alterations are merely window dressing, says Fusco. The issue is not one of Modern vs. Classical architecture, but rather a question of context. Ask yourself if you would want this building on your street, in your own neighborhood.

The New Republic magazine gave

a scathing critique of the remodeling by Herzog and De Mueron of the interior of the Tate Gallery in London. They referred to the "cold and sterile gallery spaces" there as "a mausoleum to modernism."

This solution would serve the purpose of preserving the most interesting spaces in the existing building, such as Hearst Hall with its marvelous Spanish Baroque decorations. Then the expanded facilities of the museum could be housed in an adjacent Post Modern wing that would integrate with, not clash with, the surrounding park and all the nearby historic structures.

Post Modern architecture incorporates motifs from specific historic styles, as well as reintroduces a variety of colors, textures, and shapes to the exteriors of new buildings. This blended approach was used effectively for the addition to the Yale Art Museum in New Haven, Connecticut several years ago. If a master of Post Modern design such as Mario Botta were hired for this project, the citizens of San Francisco would no doubt get a truly aesthetic new De Young Museum that would be appropriate both for its natural setting, and for the historic context into which it must fit.

The next step for opponents is to prompt candidates in the supervisors election to take a stand. Then, appeal to the municipal and federal courts. If this doesn't succeed, Fusco stated that his group will probably file a lawsuit "a last resort to prevent this travesty from being forced on the citizens of San Francisco."

Mark A. Wilson is a Realtor and architectural historian. He can be reached at 510-273-9383. Visit him at www.topbroker.com/wilson

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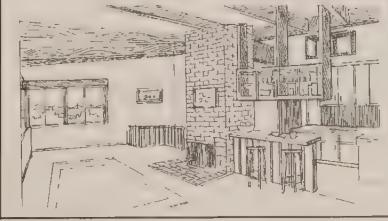


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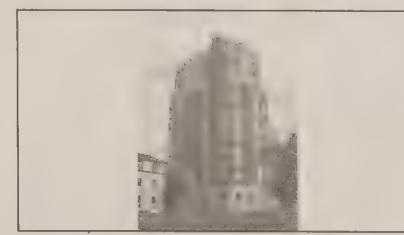
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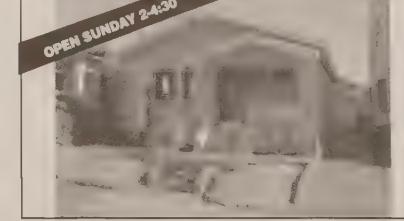
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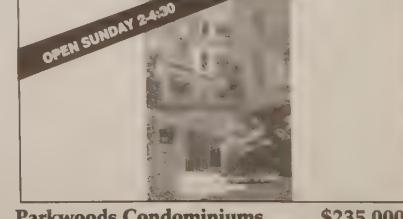
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REAL ESTATE
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FROGs popularity jumping

■ Finished rooms over garages are being used as theaters, sewing areas, hobby spots and playrooms

By Megan Sexton

KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Call them bonus rooms, storage rooms or teenager suites, there are as many uses as names for finished rooms over garages.

For Cheryl and John Brantham, the room is the perfect spot for a home theater, complete with a movie screen and projector, dark walls, comfortable chairs and vintage movie posters.

For Anne and Tony Reynolds, their "everything" room is a playroom, sewing room, hobby room and guest bedroom.

Aimee and Bobby Mann turned the room — used as a kids' playroom by previous owners — into an adult playroom, complete with television and an assortment of sports paraphernalia. Each wall is a different bright color, with a window seat and built-in bookcases surrounding the window.

Still others have turned them into home offices, game rooms, libraries, exercise rooms, and even bedrooms for pampered pets.

Finished rooms over garages — FROGs — are practically standard with new construction. They are generally large, open rooms with slanted ceilings and a window at the far end. The size of the room depends on the size of the home and garage. And with some new homes sporting three-car garages, the FROGs can get pretty large.

John Brantham, a long-time movie fan, has been planning on using his FROG as a home theater for years. The 625-square-foot room originally was used as a playroom for his two children, but as they got older, he decided it was time to go for a home theater.

Work has begun on installing a movie screen, digital light projector and new EX surround-sound system, something most theaters don't even have yet.

It allows six channels to carry sound, instead of the five used by most theaters.

The Branthams have a couch, loveseat and recliner ready, and to add to the movie theater-like ambience, they are painting the room a black-gray with white trim.

Carrying through with the theme, they'll be framing and hanging old movie posters, like the one from "Mr. Blandings Builds His Dream House," the 1948 movie starring Cary Grant and Myrna Loy.

Eventually, John Brantham hopes

to add small white lights along the floor, just like a darkened movie theater.

Anne Reynolds said she was running out of space in the one-story, three-bedroom Irmo home she shares with her husband and two young children. To avoid having to move, they needed a room where the kids could play and watch TV. Reynolds would have a spot for her sewing and her husband could work on his hobby of building fishing rods. And one more thing: They wanted space for a guest bedroom.

The Reynolds found the solution in the 14-by-20-foot FROG up the stairs from their kitchen. They did the work themselves, lining the walls and ceiling with Southern yellow pine — one of the more affordable types of wood — to give the room something of a cabin feel.

They constructed built-in cabinets in the knee wall, and they brought in the TV and the kids' Legos, games and puzzles.

"I didn't want them to just come up here and watch TV," she said.

Reynolds ordered a ready-to-assemble queen-size sofa set, then added additional furnishings and some large floor pillows for the kids. One side of the room by the stairs now has a long work area with drawers and cabinets, giving Reynolds a place to sew, and her husband the space he needs to work on his hobby.

Adding to the versatility of FROGs for families, their large dimensions make them multipurpose.

"You can divide them up without it costing too much," said interior designer Bonnie Younginer. "You can do a lot with them; it just takes

See FROGs Page B10

How to build a better fence — from the ground up

Fences have pretty much the same basic components — vertical posts set in the ground, horizontal rails that traverse between the posts that hold fence boards or pickets. (Fence boards usually are installed together to produce a solid barrier. Pickets are smaller boards that are spaced apart for an open look.)

Generally speaking, you won't need to get a building permit to build a fence. However, you should check with your local building department to find out more about local fence-building rules. They do exist. In our area, for example, fences cannot exceed 6 feet in height and must not protrude into a side or front yard setback. Front yard fences must not exceed 3-feet or so and must look a certain way.

Certain types of wood are better for use outdoors than others. Pressure-treated wood is best, but cedar and redwood also are quite good. Practically any kind of wood can be used for a painted fence. Keep in mind that painted fences must be regularly re-coated to maintain a waterproof surface and to ensure lasting quality of non-weather-resistant woods such as fir and pine.

A good alternative to painting is heavy body stain. With stain there is no worry about chipping and splitting. However, re-coating is required every several years. Even the best outdoor woods will last longer and look better if protected with a wood preservative. We always use an oil-base product. Water-based products just don't last.

It also is important to know that water doesn't bead on a properly treated wood surface. The television commercials you see are deceiving. Wax makes water bead on wood. That's because wax seals the surface causing it to be smooth — and the water beads. What you really want is an oil-base product that gets down into the pores of the wood. A wax job will last for about three months to six months, whereas oil will last for a year or two. Wax evaporates into the air over four times faster than oil does.

Fasteners should be weather-resistant too. We suggest stainless steel or hot-dipped galvanized (not electro galvanized) nails or construction screws.

The person selling it to you might refer to it as a new polymer or PVC, or by some other exotic name, but it's all still plastic. Don't get us wrong: Plastic is becoming very popular for fencing. We don't feel that plastic will last as long as wood, but we are pretty sure that it will be far less difficult to maintain for the time that it does last. No paint or preservatives required, no nail pops and no splitting.



MORRIS & JAMES CAREY
On the House

name, but it's all still plastic. Don't get us wrong: Plastic is becoming very popular for fencing. We don't feel that plastic will last as long as wood, but we are pretty sure that it will be far less difficult to maintain for the time that it does last. No paint or preservatives required, no nail pops and no splitting.

Some home centers and hardware stores offer preassembled sections of fencing. Lots of work can be saved here, but there are a few things you need to be aware of. Many of these neat little assemblies are destined to fall apart almost immediately after they are installed. Here's why: The connectors are not truly weather-resistant, they might look galvanized, but they are the cheap kind. Also, the wood used might be especially sensitive to attack by sun and water.

Again, all you have to do is be certain that the sections are made of redwood, cedar or pressure-treated wood, and that the connectors are guaranteed to be water-resistant.

Regardless of the type of fence you build, you will need fence posts and they will need to be installed in concrete. Here are a few tips:

■ The hole should be about 12 inches in diameter and about 2½ feet deep.

■ Fill the bottom of the hole with about 6 inches of drain rock.

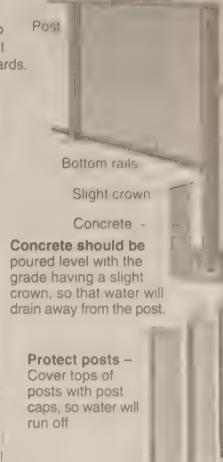
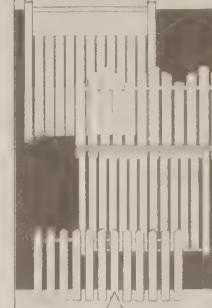
■ Set the post on top of the rock (not in it) and pour the concrete around it.

■ The concrete should be at grade — yes, it should show — and it should be crowned so that water will shed away from the post. Water must not puddle around a fence post.

We like our fence posts 6 to 8 feet apart. Six-foot centers render a stronger fence, but cost more. For gates 4 feet wide or larger use 4-by-6-inch or 6-by-6-inch posts in 4-foot-deep holes. Make sure that the holes are at least 16 inches in diameter.

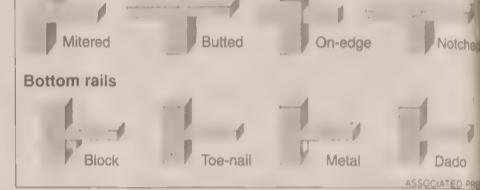
Fences

All fences have the same basic components: vertical posts set into the ground and horizontal rails that support either pickets or fence boards.



Protect posts — Cover tops of posts with post caps, so water will run off

Top rails There are a number of different ways to attach rails to the posts.



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FROGS

FROM PAGE D8

a little creative thought."

She suggested skylights in the room so the slanted ceilings don't feel like they are bearing down on you.

Interior designer Burton Hawkins, with Burton Brown Interiors, agreed that FROGs can have a tendency to

look generic. "You need to give them a little pizzazz," he said.

Hawkins suggested using a small patterned carpet, perhaps a Wilton-weave English carpet that can take high traffic but is low maintenance. Depending upon the type of room you want to end up with, Hawkins suggested buying a small floral or a vine-covered trellis.

He suggested painting the sloped ceiling a pale blue to make it feel like

the sky. And, if the room has knee walls (the area directly beneath where the sloped ceiling connects to the wall), "always, always do built-ins. TVs, cabinets with display shelves... Once you're seated, that's the part of the wall you see."

Another plus for FROGs: Their sheer size means that large exercise equipment can be accommodated, and never be put away, according to designer Jolene Smith.

Smith, of Southern Magnolia Interiors, said some people choose to put mirrors along the walls and a stereo and VCR for exercise videos.

"Adults can use this room as a media room complete with a small kitchen."

Smith also said the rooms work well as activity rooms for games, televisions and computers. She said children think of FROGs as havens, where they needn't worry about parental disapproval if they make a mess.

"One of the things I like about them is you can get rid of all the stuff you don't like downstairs. If somebody is sentimentally attached to something but it doesn't really fit in the rest of the house," it can work in the FROG, said Lynn Cobb, an interior designer.

"You don't have the same restrictions you have in the main part of the house where you want the rooms to flow into each other. You can make it unique or different," she said.



KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

ANNE AND TONY REYNOLDS use their 14-by-20-foot FROG as a playroom for their two children and as a work station for sewing and fishing rod building. They lined the walls and ceiling with Southern yellow pine paneling to give the room a cabin-like feel.

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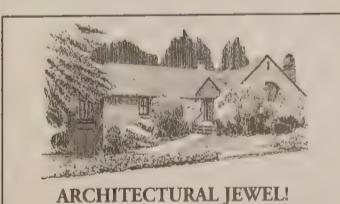
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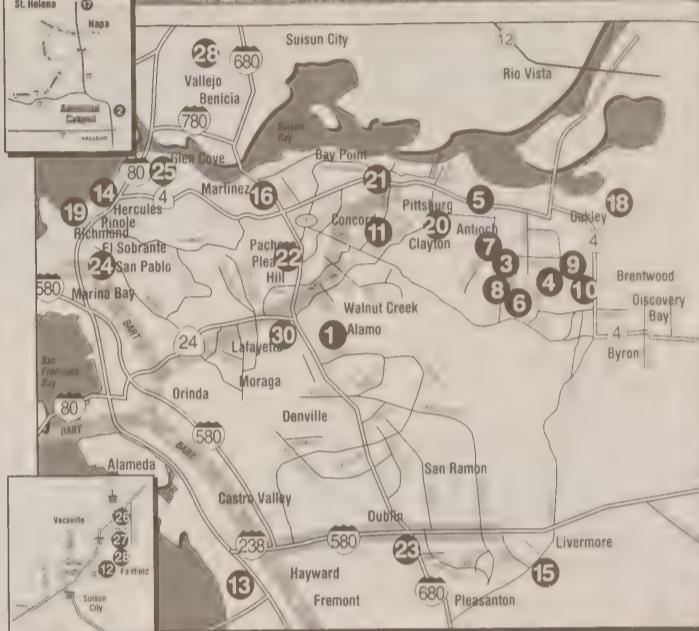
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4A Found

Lost or Found A Pet?

Don't forget to check with the

COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

7000 Frank H. Ogawa Dr., 724-1366 - Pinole

803-7040 - Dublin

739-6895 - Antioch

CAT, adult fem., short hair, blk/wht, chest & paws (510) 658-1484

CAT, blk/wht, friendly, med hair, Found Burdette, try to return (925) 757-5685

DOG: Chowsheep, mix, fe male, young, med. sz, blk & wht, found in Oakley. (925) 634-6384

DOG: Mix Male, not neutered tan w/white tail. Found 8/16 (510) 223-4527

FEMALE: Brittany Spaniel, bln/whl, found at Disco Bay golf course 9/26/00

HEN: Blane, Found 8/22 South Walnut Creek (925) 937-3690

KITTEN: orange/yellow tabby, deformed tail. Livermore, Reward. 925/449-4949

4A Found

4B Lost

PARROT Blue Fronted, Amazon Call to identify, (510) 635-8830

1B Lost

BIG GOLD DOG

Big off Pleasanton/Sun Rd, neutered male. Big head, big feet No collar 925/426-1923

BLACK LAB fem., 1/2 yr, side stripes, black. Name: Bony, Reward \$100

TORTISE SHELL CAT, small fem. Laurel Dr area, Concord REWARD? \$28/625-1946

8 Burial Lots

MEMORY GARDENS 2 side-by-side lots in Long Prayer Area \$1000 \$28-465-1222

OAKMONT Memorial Garden of Meditation, 2 side-by-side lots \$1000 Preschool environ \$28-229-1984 leave msg

OAKMONT Memorial Garden of Meditation, 2 side-by-side lots \$1000 Preschool environ \$28-229-1984 leave msg

OAKVIEW single plot in Hoppe area. Asking \$1500. (925) 706-2315

205A Alameda County Child Care

INFANT CARE provider, Lic #D13415049, Dublin, CA 945-3984

OAKLAND - Home care has 2 openings. Conv. Lic. Call (510) 531-8036 #13415021

207 West Contra Costa County Child Care

LIGHTHOUSE MCNTOSHES, 513 Spruce Ct, Rodeo

Accepting applications for Fall, ages 3-6 yrs. \$150-\$175/mo. \$175/3-6361

RICHMOND by Few, 80, ages 1-12. School transp. to Miramar, 7500 N. 1st St., Richmond 947-672-5206

AGE 0 & up, 15 yr. exp. Bancroft/reast. W.C. Affordable #07340870 925-514-7190

CAT longhair, B/W, Manx, tail, gm eyes. "Panda" #07340870 925-528-0267

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ACCOUNTANT - District Office
Martinez Unified School District, Martinez, CA 94546, part-time, 12 months, 40 hrs./wks., \$14.72/day/week. Must have 2 yrs. exp. in accounting & bookkeeping. Job requires opening for a General Ledger Accountant.

Accountant/Bkkpr.
Fast paced Concord CPA firm needs a full time accounting bookkeeper required to handle GL through fin. statements. Call (925) 685-7605 or fax resume 925-685-3800. Ext. 251.

ACCOUNTANT
Hayward logistics co. has openings for a full time manager on Accountant. Successful candidate must possess a BA degree in accounting with at least 5 yrs. exp. The successful person will be detail oriented, analytical, able to handle opening for a General Ledger Accountant.

Performer/outing G.L. and dept expense accounting functions

Support the annual budgeting process. Ability to learn and understand transaction processing. Oversight of accounting records retention, financials and support various process improvement projects.

Requirements

B.S. in Accounting or related field, 5 yrs. exp. in accounting basics, debts and credits, account reconciliation procedures, budgeting processes, financial statement analysis & word processing. Understanding of interfacing financial and operational systems.

Knowledge of software packages such as PRIMUS general ledger, AP and AR system.

Excellent verbal and written communication skills.

Flexibility and ability to handle pressure in a positive manner.

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250 Help Wanted

ACCOUNTANT
General Ledger
Looking for a career opportunity with a great company? Successful East Bay manufacturer of metal forming equipment has opening for a General Ledger Accountant.

Perform routine G.L. and dept expense accounting functions. Support the annual budgeting process. Ability to learn and understand transaction processing. Oversight of accounting records retention, financials and support various process improvement projects.

Requirements

B.S. in Accounting or related field, 5 yrs. exp. in accounting basics, debts and credits, account reconciliation procedures, budgeting processes, financial statement analysis & word processing. Understanding of interfacing financial and operational systems.

Knowledge of software packages such as PRIMUS general ledger, AP and AR system.

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Apply online: www.FSUSD.k12.ca.us

We are currently seeking experienced audit and tax managers/supervisors. If you are a self-starter, have the desire to have an impact on the continued growth of a dynamic organization, we would like to hear from you. Ideal candidate will have 6 plus years public accounting experience, including audit, tax, financial statement preparation, and financial reporting. Must be a team player, have excellent communication skills, and be able to work effectively in a fast-paced environment.

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ACCOUNTING

Progressive W.C. CPA is looking for CA licensed CPAs with a min. of 3 yrs. Public Accounting experience & a high level of computer skills, knowledge of accounting principles and strong communication skills. Ideal candidate will have knowledge of open eye EDI, ext. 1000, and TMS/TMS Pro. Duties will incl. directing all daily agency activities, but now limited to mgmt., operating & file reporting, cash management, accounts receivable, data & drafting budgets, reviewing all B/L coding, passing along information & balancing accounts at mo end of month. Duties will incl. preparing wire exp. File resume to Tem 925-685-3760 or email to CA94565-0331

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ACCOUNTING

A/P Cash Applications.

A large company in Walnut Creek is looking for a A/P Cash Application specialist with a bachelors degree in business or accounting. Duties will include: managing accounts receivable, maintaining aging reports, preparing wire exp. File resume to Tem 925-685-3762 or email to CA94565-0331

Westaff offers an excellent benefit package including medical, dental, vision, life insurance and a 401(k) plan with an employee contribution.

Salary negotiable commensurate with experience, plus annual bonus based on organizational performance

Expenditure is required in financial reporting, auditing, accounting operations, and accounting systems, preferably in a credit union or other financial institution. Requires strong analytical and organizational skills

Requires advanced personal computer spreadsheet and word processing experience with Excel and Word.

We offer an excellent benefit package including medical, dental, vision, life insurance and a 401(k) plan with an employee contribution.

Salary negotiable commensurate with experience, plus annual bonus based on organizational performance

Send your resume to:

HR Dept., Job Code CCT, Pacific Service CU, P.O. Box 8191, Walnut Creek, CA 94596-8191. Fax 925-296-5000.

Email: Human.Resources@pacificservice.org

For more information, visit our website www.pacificservice.org

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High appeal



HOME STYLES/ASSOCIATED PRESS

CEILINGS ARE BECOMING MORE OF THE FOCAL POINT of rooms in home design today. In many cases a creative ceiling design can be the most interesting element of a room, and will draw the eye up to it when guests enter the room.

This formal dining room is highlighted by a dramatic ceiling design made out of underframing and drywall that gives the effect of supportive beams but really is just a decorative treatment. The result is an elegant, interesting look that makes the room. Gone are the days of the cathedral vault that leads the eye up 20 feet to cobwebs. Instead, flat raised ceilings, a minimum of 9 feet, can incorporate non-load bearing beams of wood or drywall that can make the room.

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CONTACT: The Emeryville Redevelopment Agency's First Time Home Buyer's Program (510) 596-4316

Sales

FROM PAGE D11

SAN LEANDRO (cont.)

1433 Timothy Dr - \$220,000
2575 West Av 134th - \$405,000
2340 West Av 136th - \$290,000
194 West Broadmoor Bl - \$239,500

SAN LORENZO

271 Año Av - \$245,000
142 Loma Verde Dr - \$200,000
702 Via Aires - \$190,000
1025 Via Honda - \$319,000
1119 Via Los Trancos - \$230,000
15706 Via Punta - \$360,000

ON THE AVERAGE

ALAMEDA

TOTAL SALES: 16
LOWEST PRICE: \$205,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$525,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$345,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$350,563

ALBANY

TOTAL SALES: 4
LOWEST PRICE: \$239,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$467,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$365,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$367,750

BERKELEY

TOTAL SALES: 16
LOWEST PRICE: \$232,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$650,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$425,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$440,000

EL CERRITO

TOTAL SALES: 8
LOWEST PRICE: \$252,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,300,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$300,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$446,875

EL SOBRANTE

TOTAL SALES: 5

LOWEST PRICE: \$145,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$250,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$175,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$184,000

EL CERRITO (cont.)

TOTAL SALES: 2
LOWEST PRICE: \$150,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$317,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$277,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$277,000

KENSINGTON

TOTAL SALES: 2

LOWEST PRICE: \$250,000

HIGHEST PRICE: \$317,000

MEDIAN PRICE: \$298,000

AVERAGE PRICE: \$303,000

OAKLAND

TOTAL SALES: 105
LOWEST PRICE: \$59,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$851,500
MEDIAN PRICE: \$237,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$296,000

RICHMOND

TOTAL SALES: 44
LOWEST PRICE: \$79,500
HIGHEST PRICE: \$471,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$154,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$177,900

SAN MATEO

TOTAL SALES: 16
LOWEST PRICE: \$220,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$484,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$325,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$325,000

SAN RAMON

TOTAL SALES: 5
LOWEST PRICE: \$190,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$386,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$230,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$230,000



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HEROES WANTED!
Golf Course Now Open!

SPORTS

JV

Friday, September 1, 2000

Section C

Soccer Andres Cantor wants bigger audience [C2]

Arts Tenor sax pro Turrentine blows into town [C3]

Alexander keeping things in perspective

Preseason all-American a leader on field, in classroom

By Dean Rosener
CORRESPONDENT

There is a soft spot in my heart for the Oakland City Championship. That was the first golf tournament I ever entered. It seems ever since that weekend I have had to prove my game was not that bad.

All started with a close encounter with a cup I never should have seen. I mean, cups like this you only hear about. You don't actually see them. You don't just run into them at Lake Chabot. That cup looked old. It sat on a table in a room adjacent to the restaurant, just me and that old, shiny trophy. The names inscribed were familiar — Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, Gene Sarazen. I did not recognize Tom Morris.

It was the British Open trophy. And there it was, just sitting on that table at Chabot, reflecting a young face that was beyond marvel. The year was 1964. It was raining. Hardly anyone at the golf course. Just me and this ghost of a trophy.

A voice behind me said, "What do you think?" I turned around to see Tony Lema. He used to sneak on Lake Chabot when he was my age. I had heard about him through my high school friends and Lucious Bateman. A couple of months earlier, he had won the British Open in a shootout with Nicklaus. Oh my, was I speechless.

I opened my mouth and said something about thinking about entering the Oakland City Championship ... I mean, that's why I'm here. He said I should. Earl Fry was next to him. He said I should have to be 18. They both laughed.

I waited for my 18th birthday. And I entered.

Now, I have no idea what the

matchmakers were thinking when they made the pairings. Had to be drunk, or something. This scared beanpole of a kid was paired with the defending champion, Phil Torres.

Phil was a legend. Big, stocky guy from Alameda. In and out of jail. Hit the ball a mile. I'd be lucky if I made it through this day alive. Thankfully, I didn't whiff with my first tee shot. It just went OB right.

Phil shot 68. I'm still counting. 94.

With my best little kid smile, I apologized to Mr. Torres if my play upset his in any way, shape or form. Odd thing happened. He told me to keep after it. Might get somewhere. "You have a game, kid," he said. "You just don't know how to use it." I did not have the guts to tell him this was my first ever tournament.

A decade later, I had the lead in the

Oakland City going into the final nine holes. A guy named Bob Blomberg won. I finished two strokes back. Not bad.

Blomberg won the Oakland City tie-

so often they finally retired the trophy, him, and the golf course.

The trophy was lost for years. Lew Galbraith Golf Course became a dumping ground for estuary ... uh, er ... spoils. Blomberg retired, at least from that tournament.

In fact, Blomberg hardly plays any-

where these days outside of the

Alameda Commuters. And that is why I was surprised to hear he had won a tournament in France last month.

"My first senior win," Blomberg said this week. "It was the Biarritz Cup in France."

Four years ago Blomberg was se-

lected by the NCGA to represent the

Northern California golfers in the Biar-

ritz Cup. The NCGA no longer goes to

France, but Blomberg made so many

friends over there (like he does every-

where he goes) he decided to go on his

this year.

"I really didn't know there was a se-

nior flight," Blomberg said. "They saw

my age and I was entered automatic-

ally. I shot 70-74-69-76, which I fig-

ured put me in about 30th place ... un-

till they told me I won the senior

championship. Nice, big old trophy."

Blomberg is playing one more time

this year, in the Stocker Cup at Carmel Oct. 12-

13.

RON SALSIG
Range Rat

Of soft spots and shiny trophies



KATHY BAKER/STAFF

ST. MARY'S LINEMAN — and preseason all-American — Lorenzo Alexander is the Panther's unquestioned leader on defense.

him at 6-foot-3 and 280 pounds, but the senior candidly brings those numbers down to 6-2, 270. Other key stats for the 17-year-old phenom: a bench press of 380 pounds and a 40-yard dash time of 4.9 seconds.

How dominant is the Panthers'

prodigy? Well, he does not play left or right defensive end, but wide side defensive end.

"I always want him on the bigger side of the field, so he can use his speed to contain people," Shaughnessy said. "He has started at that demanding position

since day one of his sophomore year."

During his 16 seasons as head coach at St. Mary's, Shaughnessy has built a dynasty around imposing linemen, including John Romero, who journeyed just

See ALEXANDER, Page C2

Realignment creates new leagues, rivalries

By Curtis Pashelka
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Just chalk it up to experience. File it right next to the USFL, AfterMASH and the Yugo.

Like those other failed experiments, the Northgate High School football team's four-year stint in the Bay Valley Athletic League was a disaster. They were 4-35-1 in four years, and the group of seniors that graduated last spring went through their freshman, junior varsity and varsity seasons without winning a single game.

Now, the Broncos varsity team is the not-so-proud owner of a 23-game losing streak.

That should change this year.

This spring, the North Coast Section realigned several schools into different leagues, and created new leagues like the Bay Shore and the Diablo Foothill.

As a result, Northgate and College Park move from the BVAL to the DFL. Freedom goes from the Tri-County Athletic League to the BVAL. Berkeley and Pinole Valley are now in the Alameda-Contra Costa Athletic League. Kennedy, Piedmont, Albany and St. Mary's have broken away from the ACCAL to join the BSL.

Confused yet?

"We tried to do the best we can to make things equal for everyone," said Tom Ehrhorn, the NCS' new commissioner of athletics. "The two main criteria we used when realigning these schools into leagues were geographic location and competitive equity. From that standpoint, we're happy with how things have turned out."

So is Northgate. The Broncos' football team was doing well until 1996. In the three seasons before as a member of the Foothill Athletic League, Northgate had an overall regular-season record of 22-9, including 10-0 in 1994. The Broncos were 13-2 in FAL contests.

Then the bottom fell out.

"All of a sudden we were competing against schools that had much larger enrollment, schools that had bigger talent pools to draw from," Northgate coach Ted Tellian said. "But our kids never

stopped competing. We were giving teams like Ygnacio Valley and Deer Valley all they could handle last season."

Freedom is now in a similar position to Northgate four years ago, as the Falcons begin play in the BVAL this season. Last year, the Falcons competed mainly against schools that were smaller but were also farther away.

This season, every school Freedom faces in league play will have a larger enrollment, but will also be closer in proximity.

"We're excited about the season. We'll be facing some of our traditional rivals," Freedom coach Larry Rodriguez said. "It means more people can come to our games when we're not at home. Before, it was difficult for some of our fans to come to games that were a long way away."

The same should hold true for the new schools in the ACCAL. Pinole Valley and Berkeley used to have to travel long distances to face teams in their respective leagues. Now the schools they face will only be a few miles away. Or is some cases, a few blocks.

"It's going to be an old-fashioned street fight, a dog fight until the end," Berkeley coach Gary Weaver said. "These guys see each other at the grocery store, in church, at the park. It's going to make for a very competitive year."

The ACCAL is also more diverse in size. While the BVAL features teams from 3A and 4A, and eight of the 10 teams in the DFL are 2A, the ACCAL has teams in three different classifications. Three schools are in 2A (El Cerrito, De Anza, Encinal), two are in 3A (Alameda, Richmond) and two in 4A (Pinole Valley, Berkeley).

"It's not going to be much different for us. Traditionally, we had faced some of these schools before the league season started," Pinole Valley coach Jim Erickson said. "But it will cut down on our travel time. That should help us."

While other football leagues in the East Bay figure to be competitive all the way to the end, the Bay Shore Athletic

ALAMEDA/CONTRA COSTA ATHLETIC LEAGUE

HOME GAMES IN CAPS

* League games

Alameda

Sept. 28	at Salesian	1:30 p.m.
Sept. 29	EL CERRITO*	7 p.m.
Sept. 30	ALBANY	7 p.m.
Oct. 1	at De Anza*	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 2	ENCINAL*	7 p.m.
Oct. 3	at Richmond*	7 p.m.
Oct. 4	PINOLE VALLEY*	7 p.m.
Oct. 5	at El Cerrito*	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 6	GRANADA	7 p.m.
Oct. 7	BERKELEY*	7 p.m.
Oct. 8	at Encinal	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 9	RICHMOND*	7 p.m.
Oct. 10	at Pinole Valley*	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 11	EL CERRITO*	3:30 p.m.
Oct. 12	at De Anza*	7 p.m.
Oct. 13	ALAMEDA*	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 14	at Encinal*	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 15	BYE	NA
Oct. 16	FOOTBALL	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 17	at James Logan	7 p.m.
Oct. 18	DOS PALOS	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 19	at Livermore	7 p.m.
Oct. 20	DE ANZA*	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 21	at Encinal*	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 22	BYE	NA
Oct. 23	ALAMEDA*	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 24	at Encinal*	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 25	BYE	NA
Oct. 26	FOOTBALL	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 27	at Richmond*	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 28	PINOLE VALLEY*	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 29	at El Cerrito*	3:30 p.m.
Oct. 30	BYE	NA
Oct. 31	FOOTBALL	7:30 p.m.
Nov. 1	at Encinal	7:30 p.m.
Nov. 2	BYE	NA
Nov. 3	EL CERRITO*	7:30 p.m.
Nov. 4	BYE	NA
Nov. 5	FOOTBALL	7:30 p.m.
Nov. 6	at Encinal	7:30 p.m.
Nov. 7	BYE	NA
Nov. 8	FOOTBALL	7:30 p.m.
Nov. 9	at Encinal	7:30 p.m.
Nov. 10	BYE	NA

Sept. 29 RICHMOND* 7:30 p.m.

Oct. 6 ST. MARY'S 7 p.m. 7:30 p.m.

Oct. 13 EL CERRITO* 7:30 p.m.

Oct. 20 ALAMEDA* 7:30 p.m.

Nov. 3 at De Anza 7:30 p.m.

Nov. 10 at Encinal 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 8 at Clovis West 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 15 FOLSOM 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 22 MISSION-S.F. 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 29 at Pinole Valley* 7:30 p.m.

Oct. 13 at Cerritos* 7 p.m.

Oct. 20 ALAMEDA* 7 p.m.

Oct. 27 DE ANZA* 7 p.m.

Nov. 3 ENCINAL* 7 p.m.

Nov. 10 MARIN CATHOLIC 7 p.m.

Sept. 8 at Clovis West 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 15 FOLSOM 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 22 MISSION-S.F. 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 29 at Pinole Valley* 7:30 p.m.

Oct. 13 at Cerritos* 7 p.m.

Oct. 20 ALAMEDA* 7 p.m.

Oct. 27 DE ANZA* 7 p.m.

Nov. 3 ENCINAL* 7 p.m.

Nov. 10 MARIN CATHOLIC 7 p.m.

Sept. 8 at Clovis West 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 15 FOLSOM 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 22 MISSION-S.F. 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 29 at Pinole Valley* 7:30 p.m.

Oct. 13 at Cerritos* 7 p.m.

Oct. 20 ALAMEDA* 7 p.m.

Oct. 27 DE ANZA* 7 p.m.

Nov. 3 ENCINAL* 7 p.m.

Nov. 10 MARIN CATHOLIC 7 p.m.

Berkeley

Sept. 8	FOOTHILL	7:30 p.m.
Sept. 15	at James Logan	7 p.m.
Sept. 22	DOS PALOS	7:30 p.m.
Sept. 29	at Livermore	7 p.m.
Oct. 6	DE ANZA*	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 13	at Pinole Valley*	7 p.m.
Oct. 20	BYE	NA
Oct. 27	at Encinal*	7:30 p.m.
Nov. 3	EL CERRITO*	3:30 p.m.
Nov. 10	at Alameda	7:30 p.m.

Sept. 8 MOULYMONDS 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 15 at Kennedy-Rich 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 22 at Lincoln-Stockton 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 29 ENCINAL* 7:30 p.m.

Oct. 6 at Richmond* 7 p.m.

Oct. 13 at Pinole Valley* 7 p.m.

Oct. 20 at Alameda* 7:30 p.m.

Oct. 27 at Encinal* 7:30 p.m.

Nov. 3 BYE 7 p.m.

Nov. 10 at Alameda 7:30 p.m.

El Cerrito

Sept. 8	SKYLINE	7 p.m.
Sept. 15	at St. Mary's 7 p.m.	7 p.m.
Sept. 22	at Lincoln-Stockton	7:30 p.m.
Sept. 29	ENCINAL*	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 6	at Richmond*	7 p.m.
Oct. 13	at Pinole Valley*	7 p.m.
Oct. 20	BYE	NA
Oct. 27	at Alameda*	7:30 p.m.
Nov. 3	DE ANZA*	3:30 p.m.
Nov. 10	at Pinole Valley*	7 p.m.

Sept. 8 SKYLINE 7 p.m.

Sept. 15 at St. Mary's 7 p.m.

Sept. 22 at Lincoln-Stockton 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 29 ENCINAL* 7:30 p.m.

Oct. 6 at Richmond* 7 p.m.

Cantor's goal: huge audience



MIKE McGREEHAN

Between the Lines

It's July 12, 1998, at Stade de France in St. Denis, outside Paris. Zinedine Zidane heads in a corner kick for host France against Brazil in the World Cup final.

"GOOOOOOOOOOOOLLLLLL!!!!!!" screams Andres Cantor in his customary cry that has become known to both Spanish- and English-speaking soccer fans throughout the United States.

Cantor, who called the past three World Cups for the Univision television network, moved to Spanish-language rival Telemundo a few months ago. Univision recently announced its agreement to televise the 2002 and 2006 World Cups to Spanish-speaking fans in this country. So Cantor won't likely be part of the package, at least for 2002.

But that doesn't mean Cantor won't call the next World Cup. Fans will simply have to tune in on radio.

In addition to his television duties, Cantor is also the host of "Futbol de Primera," the original coast-to-coast Spanish-language radio soccer program. On Aug. 22, Futbol de Primera announced that it has secured the U.S. Spanish-language radio rights to the next two World Cups.

"It's one of the biggest highlights of our lives," said Futbol de Primera creator, producer and president Alex Gutman. "I heard there were 15 companies bidding for (the rights). We were the lucky ones chosen by FIFA."

Futbol de Primera's agreement with Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), soccer's world governing body, also includes the rights to the World Youth Cups of 2001, 2003 and 2005; the 2003 Women's World Cup; the 2001, 2003 and 2005 Confederations Cups; and all preliminary and final draws for these events.

Futbol de Primera also holds exclusive Spanish-language radio rights to the World Cup qualifying matches of the U.S., Paraguayan and Bolivian national teams. Currently, Futbol de Primera provides broadcasts of various matches involving club teams. A couple weeks ago, for example, KZSF (1370 AM) carried Futbol de Primera's coverage of the Merconorte Cup match between Chivas of Guadalajara and Barcelona of Ecuador.

Fans can now look forward to more Cantor. In addition, Futbol de Primera promises to have a stable of commentators that includes former U.S. national team coaches Bora Milutinovic and Steve Sampson (both men speak fluent Spanish), former Argentina coach Carlos Salvador Bilardo (World Cup-winning coach in 1986, second place four years later), and 1986 Mexican World Cup star Javier Aguirre.

Futbol de Primera also has secured the services of two highly-respected soccer journalists from Mexico, Fernando Schwartz and "Don" Ignacio Matus.

"(Matus)" is a most recognizable figure in Mexico," says Gutman, himself a former professional soccer player. "He has covered 11 or 12 World Cups. He is a delightful person with great knowledge of the game."

(Schwartz) is also a well-known figure in Mexico through his work with Televisa (Mexico's major television conglomerate). He is very professional, accurate and objective. He doesn't talk for the sake of talking.

"We feel we are going to have the greatest group of commentators and color men in history."

Some might find it odd that a column about Spanish-language soccer coverage appears in a mainstream English publication. But it's not really strange at all. Especially to those of us who love soccer.

Univision has televised every World Cup since 1978. For many of those years, it provided the only television coverage available to fans in the United States. Even in 1998, Univision was the only outlet to provide comprehensive coverage from France. ABC-ESPN televised select matches in English.

For those who don't happen to be in front of a TV, Spanish-language radio has historically been the only option. English-language radio did not broadcast the 1998 World Cup in this country. Come to think of it, no English-language broadcasts were available for the 1994 World Cup, the one hosted by the United States.

Those of us who love soccer, then, have to be at least moderately functional in a language besides English. And Futbol de Primera is an excellent source for soccer information — at least for those able to receive it.

Futbol de Primera, based in San Francisco (Gutman) and Miami (Cantor), launched its original show 12 years ago from San Jose station KLOK (1170 AM). The show later moved to San Francisco's KIQI (1010-AM). Futbol de Primera consisted of hour-long programs on weekdays with a special show Sunday nights. Today, Futbol de Primera has expanded its programming and distributes it to 40 stations in the

Cal well represented at Summer Olympics

STAFF REPORTS

The University of California at Berkeley will be sending 11 students and one coach to the upcoming Summer Olympics in Sydney, Australia.

UC Berkeley swimmer Anthony Ervin will race in the 50-meter freestyle and 400-meter freestyle relay events and another swimmer, Stacia Stitts, will compete in the 100-meter breaststroke for the U.S. team.

Two members of the university's women's water polo team, Ericka Lorenz and Heather Petri, are also representing the United States.

Six members of the UC Berkeley men's rowing team will be at the Olympics competing for various countries. Jake Wetzel is rowing for the U.S. team while his teammates

Filip Filipie, Ivan Smiljanic and Mladen Stevic are rowing for Yugoslavia. Nito Simonsen is rowing for Norway and Kevin White is rowing for Canada.

Pitching for Italy is Nicole DiSalvo of the UC Berkeley softball team.

UC Berkeley gymnastics coach Barry Weiner is serving as assistant coach for the U.S. men's gymnastics team.

In addition, the spokesman says, 22 former UC Berkeley students are participating in the 2000 Summer Olympics including basketball star Jason Kidd, who left the university in 1994 to join the NBA, and soccer champion and 1990 alumna Joy Bielefeld Fawcett.

Realign

FROM PAGE CI

League may be a bit more predictable. In the past two seasons, St. Mary's had an overall regular season record of 16-4. The five other teams in the BSAL had a combined record of 28-65.

But that doesn't mean St. Mary's coach Dan Shaughnessy is taking anything for granted.

"It's good for us to have three or four (nonleague) games," Shaugh-

nessy said. "But if you get two losses in this league, you're done."

Ehrhorn said that when the NCS put leagues together, they were keeping in mind more than one sport.

"The realignment doesn't just affect football or basketball, it encompasses every sport," he said. "Schools that are very good in one sport may not be as good in another. Up until a few years ago, De La Salle wasn't a football powerhouse. People forget that things can change."

Only time will tell if things have changed for the better.

Salsig

FROM PAGE XX

14. The Oakland City Championship is Sept. 16-17, the last time it will ever be at Lake Chabot as we knew it. Call the pro shop at 351-5812 for an entry blank, or go to amatdegolf.com on the web.

Don't worry, Blomberg's not playing. At least not until he reads this: Lake Chabot will be no more after this tournament. Last chance.

Arthur Hill is replacing the old workhorse with a brand new golf course, starting next year.

Now that might get Blomberg thinking.

East Bay Links: Jerry Berrow of Alameda, who gives any kid who asks a free set of golf clubs (523-4653), was given a \$2,500 grant

from the NCGA this week ... The 21st annual Cal Golf Tournament, sponsored in part by Twinhill, Titleist, Callaway and Ping, is set for Monday, Sept. 18 at the Orinda Country Club. Only 125 spots are available on a first-come, first-served basis with a 12:30 p.m. shotgun start. For more information or to request an entry form, contact the Cal Golf office at 510-643-5914, Ken Loyd at 510-464-2654 or Frank Brunk at 925-258-0428 ... Martha Burkhardt won her fourth straight age 12-14 junior title at the Castlemood Junior ... Ki Shui Liao of Alameda shot a 76 to win the State Fair Junior age 12-14 championship.

Ron Salsig turned pro so he would not have to embarrass himself further in the Oakland City Championship. He can be reached at rsalsig@pacbell.net

SPORTS BRIEFS

Fall schedules needed

The Hills Newspapers need schedules for high school fall sports. Please fax schedules to 339-4066.

Football officials needed

The East Bay Football Officials Association is in need of officials for the upcoming high school season. The season begins Labor Day weekend. No experience is needed and training and monetary compensation is provided. Those interested should contact Sam Moriana at 521-4121.

Oakland Parks and Recreation is looking for experienced softball and basketball officials for the fall season. Contact Frederick L. Morris III at 238-3494.

Coaches needed

Piedmont High School is looking for coaches for its fall sports season. The Highlanders have coaching vacancies in junior varsity girls tennis, junior varsity girls volleyball and varsity boys water polo. Applicants should call athletic director Karyn Shipp at 594-2744.

**Please recycle
this newspaper!**

REALIGNED LEAGUES FOR FOOTBALL

ALAMEDA-CONTRA COSTA ATHLETIC LEAGUE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alameda Berkeley & De Anza El Cerrito Encinal Pinole Valley* Richmond 	DIABLO FOOTHILL ATHLETIC LEAGUE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alcalanes# Athabasca# Campolindo# College Park# Concord# Dublin# Las Lomas* Miramonte# Mt. Diablo# Northgate*
BAY SHORE ATHLETIC LEAGUE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Albany% John Swett% Kennedy% Piedmont% St. Mary's% St. Patrick% 	
BAY VALLEY ATHLETIC LEAGUE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Antioch Clayton Valley Deer Valley De La Salle Freedom# Liberty Pittsburg Ygnacio Valley 	
EAST BAY ATHLETIC LEAGUE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amador Valley California Foothill Granada Livermore Monte Vista San Ramon Valley 	

Legend

- # - Moved from Tri-County Athletic
- * - Moved from Bay Valley Athletic
- (-) - Moved from Superior Cal
- % - Moved from Alameda-Contra Costa
- Leagues
- Athletic League

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LORENZO ALEXANDER (second from left) stands tall in the St. Mary's defense, but also is a strong student, earning a 3.83 GPA.

Alexander

FROM PAGE CI

Even uncle/mentor Moore could nephew play — at least on those ends when the Panthers play on night instead of Saturday after.

But that's next year. Look the Panthers' season opener October 9 — a home game against Oakland High. Despite a thin only six senior starters, St. Mary's hopes to improve on last year's division-finalist season. Team come first for Alexander, but he nor does want to justify that News expectation.

"It's nice to be named a person all-American," he said, "but would be better to be a post-all-American."

FRIDAY MOVIE LISTINGS

Titles and showtimes subject to change
Call theaters for information
Compiled by Hollywood.com

* Wheelchair Accessible

Showtimes for Friday, September 1

Alameda County

Act I & II

Center of the Storm: Berkeley 843-PLM

• An Affair of Love (R) 12/20, 2:30, 4:00, 7:00, 9:30

• Cecil B. DeMented (R) 12/20, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:40

Alamy Twink

Space 1 San Pablo Ave., Albany 843-PLM

• Girl on the Bridge (R) 7/00, 9:00

• Saving Grace (R) 5/45, 8:45

California Theatres

On Broadway at Shubert, Berkeley 843-PLM

• The Art of War (R) 1/45, 4:30, 7:15, 9:45

• The Cell (R) 1/30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:30

• The Replacements (PG-13) 1/15, 3:45, 6:45, 9:20

Century 25 Union City Union Landing *

32100 Union City Rd., Union City 487-9593

• The Art of War (R) 11/15 a.m., 12/20, 1:55, 2:35, 3:15,

4:35, 5:10, 6:20, 7:30, 8:45, 9:45

• Bring It On (PG-13) 11/15 a.m., 10:45, 12:00, 2:40, 4:40,

5:45, 7:00, 9:40

• Bless the Child (R) 11/30 a.m., 2:00, 4:20, 7:35, 9:55

• Bring It On (PG-13) 12/10, 12:55, 2:45, 3:20, 5:15, 6:00,

7:40, 8:15, 10:05, 10:30

• Chicken Run (G) 11/20 a.m., 1:20

• Coyote Ugly (PG-13) 12/30, 3:30, 5:20, 7:50, 10:10

• The Crew (R) 11/20 a.m., 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:15

• Dinosaur (R) 1/10, 5:00, 9:30

• Godzilla 2000 (PG-13) 11/25 a.m., 1:45, 4:15, 7:25, 9:50

• Gone in 60 Seconds (PG-13) 7/05, 4:00

• Hollow Man (R) 11/20 a.m., 1:45, 4:00, 7:20, 9:30

• Space Cowboys (PG-13) 11/00 a.m., 1:45, 4:30, 7:10, 9:10

• Titanic (PG-13) 11/20 a.m., 2:00, 2:20, 2:50, 4:45, 5:25,

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Reviews

— M. Pol. (PG-13; crude sexual humor and language.) 1 hour, 54 minutes. C+ "SAVING GRACE": A light, hilarious English comedy to wash away the ill effects of summer blockbusters. Twice Oscar-nominated Brenda Blethyn ("Secrets & Lies," "Little Voice") leads a seamless cast of character actors. She plays Grace Trevethyn, whose philandering husband has died and left her with a mountain of debt. Looking for a way to pay it off, the gentle Grace utilizes her natural talent for gardening and sets up a marijuana farm in her greenhouse. Her partner in crime is her gardener, Martin, played with considerable handbag charm by Craig Ferguson, who also cowrote this gem. In the tradition of "Waking Ned Devine," "Saving Grace" takes part of its strength and charm from its setting, a seaside village in Cornwall where everybody definitely knows everybody's name. Easy to see why this charmer scooped up the Audience Appreciation award at Sundance 2000. — M. Pol. (R; drug content and language.) 1 hour, 33 minutes. A-

"SPACE COWBOYS": OK, so it's not actually "The Golden Girls in Outer Space" but it sure seems like it. Clint Eastwood directs and stars in this amiable but silly comedy-drama about four retired Air Force pilots (Eastwood, Tommy Lee Jones, James Garner and Donald Sutherland) called into action to help NASA with a problematic — and an antiquated — Russian satellite. After a month of training, they're off in the space shuttle to save the day. With four such fine actors, this ought to have been better, but it doesn't quite make it. For one thing, the incessant jokes about heart attacks, poor eyesight and dentures wear thin. Then there's the credibility of the story. Does NASA really send astronauts into space without telling them

the truth about their dangerous assignments? — M. Pol. (PG-13; brief nudity.) 2 hours C

"STEAL THIS MOVIE": It's the Abbie Hoffman story, and it takes turns being as exhilarating and as exasperating as its subject was. Vincent D'Onofrio is outstanding as the founder of the Yippie movement and Janeane Garofolo does well in the thankless role of his much-loved but deserted wife, Anita. Filled with well-executed flashbacks to the late '60s and early '70s, with real footage spliced in events, including rioting at the 1968 Democratic National Convention. Nice acting all around, including excellent supporting characters such as Donal Logue and Troy Garity (playing his own father, Tom Hayden). But the film never quite succeeds as it should have. — M. Pol. (R; violence, brief nudity, drug content and language.) 1 hour, 51 minutes. B-

"THE TAO OF STEVE": It's being sold as a men's movie, in which a strangely studly fat guy (Donal Logue) explains how the Tao of Steve (McQueen, Garrett, Austin) helps him bag the babes. But in first-time director Jennifer Goodman's hands, it's actually just a chick flick, a fat-boy-meets-skinny-girl movie. After all his years of philandering, Logue's character, Dex, is irresistibly drawn to stage designer Syd (Greer Goodman, the director's sister) and so the despicable, callous cycle of Steve will be righteously smitten by women power. Yeah, right. Sorry, girls, the mystery of men aren't solved here. Still, the smart dialogue and hugely appealing Logue make this indie flick worth watching. — M. Pol. (R; language and drug use.) 1 hour, 28 minutes. B-

"THE WOMAN CHASER": From way out of nowhere comes this kicky little independent feature that should warm the heart of any true movie buff. Set in Hollywood in the '60s, this film-noir spoof, adapted from a Charles Willeford novel, stars Patrick Watburton as a crooked used car salesman who decides to write and direct a movie about a renegade child-killing truck driver. Made for a reported \$800,000, "The Woman Chaser" is thoroughly aware of its cheesiness, and makes the most of it. — B. Strauss. (NR; nudity, language, sex.) 1 hour, 27 minutes. B+

	Contra Costa Times	Dallas Morning News	Detroit Free Press	Miami Herald	N.Y. Daily News	Philadelphia Inquirer	Seattle Times
"Bless the Child" (R)	●	▼	●	●	▼	●	●
"Bring It On" (PG-13)		▼	▼	▼		▼	
"Cecil B. DeMented" (R)	▼	●	▼	●	▼	●	●
"The Cell" (R)	■	■	●	▼	■	▼	■
"The Crew" (PG-13)		■		▼		●	
"Godzilla 2000" (PG)	▼	▼		●	▼	▼	
"Nutty Professor II" (PG-13)	■	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼
"Original Kings ..." (R)		★	▼	■	★	■	■
"The Replacements" (PG-13)	■	■	■	▼	●	▼	▼
"Space Cowboys" (PG-13)	▼	■	■	■	■	■	■

● Brilliant ■ Good ▼ Weak ● Bomb

Movie picks

Movie reviews from around the nation

East Bay, but Muscovites couldn't. Also, does this line sound familiar? One Russian parent, interviewed during "NBC Nightly News" story on the towering inferno this week, said: "This is good. Now maybe our children will have to read instead of wasting all their time watching TV."

A Taxing Situation: Having said the above, I've been immersed the past few weeks watching the new fall-season TV series. I look forward to this task like many of you "look forward" to doing your taxes each spring. Believe me, this is also taxing. Out of 41 new shows I've previewed, there are two I might watch a second time.

So, you may wonder, any new trends to report — that is, besides the usual avalanche of mediocrity?

Yes, I've spotted one trend: At least four of the new shows "borrow" heavily from the soundtrack of the Oscar-winning film, "American Beauty."

Video-Rental Tip of the Week: The British production, "Topsy Turvy," is just out as a rental. This story of Gilbert & Sullivan's musical collaboration (these guys couldn't have been any more different) and the movie's behind-the-scenes look at the creative process makes for the most memorable film I've seen this year. The film's

keen-eyed portrayal of actors' insecurities and frailties alone makes it worthwhile.

Speaking of insecurity: Be sure to watch an insightful new two-hour documentary, "Child Stars: Their Story," premiering Monday night at 9 on cable's A&E. (Yes, it's even worth logging off to see.) The show interviews four generations of movie and TV child stars who tell what it's like to be a has-been at age 12. Former "Rosanne" kiddie star Sara Gilbert admits, "When I hear the term 'former child star' I think of someone whose life has fallen apart." (Those headlines about arrests and drug abuse of former kidstars are all too common.)

I especially like Patty Duke's acerbic observations about what it's like growing up in a largely adult world: "I was supposed to be America's teenager, and I didn't have a clue," she says. "I had to go out and find other teenagers just to learn how to dance."

Duke then describes a typical day at work on her TV show: "When they called 'Cut!' the adults would go get drunk, and the kids would go off and do their homework."

Questions? Comments? E-mail Bill: Newsmann@sonic.net.

fans of Spiritualized's more dreamy, drugged-out stuff.

Wuss factor: 8 out of 10.

■ "Little Black Numbers" (CAW), Kathryn Williams. Belongs on the CD rack right next to Belle & Sebastian. Hushed, gentle and terribly sad acoustic melodies. This one's up for the UK's coveted Mercury Prize. Available as an import only.

Wuss factor: 9 out of 10.

■ "Puzzle" (Minty Fresh), Tahiti 80. So intensely wussy, there's actually a song about how intimidated the singer is by Ray Davies of the Kinks. Plus, they're French. I mean, come on. They play the Cellar at Johnny Foley's in San Francisco on Sept. 2. (See the album review on Page 23.)

Wuss factor: 11 out of 10.

William Friar is the pop music critic for the Times. He can be reached by phone (925-952-2678), fax (925-943-8362) or e-mail (wfriar@cctimes.com).

Friar

ON PAGE C3

For the album's third song, this gives us the most devastating breakbeat song of the year. Wuss factor: 10 out of 10.

Hold your hands child, you like a peasant" (Matador), & Sebastian, B&S's brand of sweet, fragile retro pop has become majorly popular and influential in the tiny world of indie rock. It's easy to picture this Scottish ensemble burning incense before a shrine to Nick Drake. Harps, Bacharach orchestration, together so beautifully, there are some sound-alike acts (see Tahiti 80, below). Wuss factor: 9 out of 10 (a perfect lyrical edge keeps it from being perfectly wussed-out).

"Melody of Certain Damned Lemons" (Touch and Go),

Blonde Redhead. Think Sonic Youth in its quieter moods, as sung by Cibo Matto. That's one of those annoying comparisons that will only mean something to a handful of people. The good news is that it doesn't mean anything to you, you won't like this album. But it's created enough of a buzz to get the band booked for two shows at San Francisco's Great American Music Hall on Sept. 12 and 13.

Wuss factor: 7 out of 10 (those Sonic-y guitars kick in from time to time).

■ "Home Is Where You Hang Yourself" (Tiger Style), her space holiday. Now we're digging deep into the underground, her space holiday is the recording alias of Marc Bianchi, owner of the San Mateo-based Audiointeraction Phenomena label. This two-CD set collects remixes of earlier recordings and a bunch of newer stuff. It's been described as electronic "space pop," and that's probably as good a label as any. It'll appeal to

good critics for the Times. He can be reached by phone (925-952-2678), fax (925-943-8362) or e-mail (wfriar@cctimes.com).

■ "Melody of Certain Damned Lemons" (Touch and Go),

and the attention of Blue Note owner Alfred Lion, who quickly signed him

Events

FROM PAGE C3

■ "Our Place in the Universe," ongoing. A walking tour of the universe using 3-D technologies and featuring the Hologlobe, on permanent loan from the Smithsonian Institution.

■ "Planetary Landscapes: Sculpting the Solar System," ongoing. Wander through a room of swirling atmospheres, bubbling calderas, and a sea of clouds in this exhibit of interactive sculptures by artist Ned Kahn.

■ "Astronomy In California 1850-1950: Telescope Makers, Telescopes, and Artifacts," ongoing. Explore California's astronomical history through a display of telescopes, artifacts, and the histories of their makers, on loan from the Smithsonian Institution.

■ "The Origin and Meaning of Meteorites," ongoing. A mural by artists Joy Day and B.E. Johnson, accompanied by a case of meteorite samples.

■ "Visions of the Universe," ongoing. An exhibit of astronomical paintings by Joe Tucciarone, accompanied by images from the Hubble Space Telescope and the Anglo Australian Observatory.

■ "The Soul of Night,"

savory.

■ "International Space Station HAB-LAB," ongoing. Walk through a full-sized depiction of the International Space Station's laboratory and living modules.

■ "PLANETARIUM — Featuring one of the most advanced star projectors in the world. Call for prices and times.

■ "The Soul of Night,"

TIEN MEGADOME SCIENCE THEATER — A 70-foot dome-screen auditorium. Call for prices and times.

■ "To Be An Astronaut,"

■ "Amazing Journeys,"

OBSERVATORY COMPLEX — Explore the night sky with refractor telescopes. Friday and Saturday, 7 p.m. to 9:45 p.m.

\$8 general; \$5 seniors, \$5.50 children; free children under age 3; \$4 parking.

Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland (510) 530-3489 or www.chatbot-space.org

■ "Math Rules!" ongoing exhibit. A

LAWRENCE HALL OF SCIENCE —

■ "Experiment Gallery," closing Sept. 2.

■ Step inside a giant laboratory and experiment with concepts surrounding sound, light, mechanics, electricity, and weather.

■ "Math Rules!" ongoing exhibit. A

math exhibit of hands-on problem-solving stations, each with a different mathematical challenge. Make mathematical ice-cream cones, use blocks to build three dimensional structures, make dodecahedron pies from a variety of mathematical shapes and stretch mathematical thinking.

■ "Within the Human Brain," ongoing installation. Visitors test their cranial nerves, play skeeball, master mazes, match musical tones and construct stories inside a simulated "rat cage" of learning experiments.

■ "Laser: The Light Fantastic," ongoing exhibit. Make a laser light show, work a supermarket-style laser, examine holograms and stop a laser beam barehanded.

■ "1492: Two Worlds of Science," ongoing exhibit. Explore European and Native American science and technology at the time of Columbus's voyage, through activities with number systems, navigation tools, map making, computer games and a replica of the rocking deck of the Nina.

FAMILY WORKSHOPS — Registration is required and each child must be accompanied by an adult. (510) 542-5134

See EVENTS, Page C9

Coulter

FROM PAGE C3

she says. She rarely works from an outline.

"I really don't know what I'm going to write when I come down the stairs every day," she says. "I just sit down and start writing."

How does she finish a book in the time it takes most of us to make a list of things to do? The secret of her success, she says, is old-fashioned discipline.

"You can have all the talent in the world, and if you don't sit down and work, it's not going to magically appear," she says. "I write from 7:30 to 11 every morning. My life is extraordinarily structured — any hour of the day, anyone who knows me will know exactly what I'm doing."

Coulter's day actually starts around 6:30, when she takes an hour to read her fan mail. She has a full-time assistant who helps her with research and other tasks, but Coulter says she answers all letters and emails herself.

Branching out

Her fan base has changed since she branched out into suspense novels. "I'm up to about 30 percent men now," she says. "Romances are girls' books. Ninety-five percent of those readers are women because women love relationships. Guys don't — say the 'R' word, and they run the other way! Their fantasies are just different from ours."

Coulter grew up reading the romance novels of Georgette Heyer, who is still one of her all-time favorite authors. She's always been an avid reader. These days, she likes Dick Francis, Jonathan Kellerman and J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter books. She traces the start of her own career to an experience in the '70s. While reading a book, she explains, she suddenly thought, "I can do better than that," threw the book across the room and started writing

in earnest.

At the time, Coulter and Pogany were living in New York. He was a medical student, and she was working as a speechwriter for a Wall Street insurance firm. She had recently earned a master's degree in early 19th-century European history from Boston College, and decided to try her hand at the Regency romance genre pioneered by Heyer.

Following "The Autumn Countess," she wrote six more Regency romances. In 1982, she published her first long historical romance, "Devil's Embrace." When Pogany started a residency at UCSF, they moved to Marin County. She quit her job and has been writing full time ever since.

Although Coulter is quick to point out the distinctions between various genres — Regency romance, historical romance, romantic suspense and suspense thriller — she says that even her most contemporary novels incorporate elements of romantic fiction.

"A book cannot be called a romance unless, at its core, the focus is on the relationship between a man and a woman," she says. "In the suspense thrillers, the core is unraveling the mysteries and trying not to get killed in the process. But you can have anything you want around the edges. You can always have two people getting together. And I normally do, because I like to have men and women working together in all of them."

"Riptide" is the fifth book in what Coulter calls her "FBI series." The series began in 1996 with "The Cove," and continued with "The Maze," "The Target" and "The Edge."

S and S' return

The new book features a new protagonist, political speechwriter Rebecca Matlock, who finds herself on the run from a stalker and the authorities who suspect her role in a crime she didn't commit. Amid the book's twists and turns, Coulter manages to get Rebecca involved in a love affair with hunky Adam Car-

ruthers, the agent assigned to protect her.

The book also brings back two favorite Coulter characters, husband-and-wife FBI agents Dillon and Lacy "Sherlock" Savich. "My fans call them 'S and S,'" she says. "They're the glue that binds the series together, and people seem to think they're wonderful."

Coulter tries to make the stories as detailed as she can, and says she spends a lot of time researching settings, police procedures, gun specifications and other particulars.

"If I need a police precinct in Chicago or Boston, I simply call," she says. "It's best if you get a woman, because a woman will know how much dirt there is on that linoleum floor. She'll know that the perennials are dying in the flower box outside the precinct. Men don't tend to see all that stuff."

Beyond that, she says, the characters are always the most important element. "You've got to really like the characters. I think I could write a phone book and if I make you like the characters, you will enjoy yourself."

Not the 'angst queen'

She's sure of one thing, though. The story, wherever it leads, will hold the reader's interest.

"Basically, what people want is characters involved in a rip-roaring good story," she says. "I want to entertain, and you know when you read me that the book's going to end well. I'm not the angst queen; if you want to be bummed out, watch the 6 o'clock news. I'm not going to do that to you. I want to entertain you and I want to have you smile when you finish the book. Because that's the kind of book I like to read myself."

Turrentine

FROM PAGE C3

CTI albums, is particularly noteworthy. In recent years, health problems have diminished Hubbard's once prolific recording career, while his rare concert appearances have been marked by erratic performances.

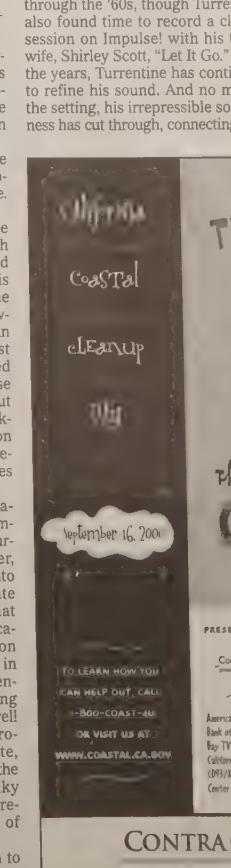
"I spent a few weeks in Europe playing to get ready for this," Hubbard said from his Los Angeles home. "I'm getting ready to come back."

While Hubbard and Turrentine both attained widespread fame with CTI in the '70s, the saxophonist paid considerably more dues early in his career. By the age of 16, Turrentine was on the road with bluesman Lowell Fulson in a band that included an unknown Georgia-born pianist named Ray Charles. "We headed straight down South, and in those years with Jim Crow, it was about survival," Turrentine said. "I'm talking literally your life was always on the line, merely to play music, because of the laws and the attitudes and the people."

Turrentine gained his first national attention in 1959 when drummer Max Roach recruited both Turrentine and his older brother, trumpeter Tommy Turrentine, into his band. It was a recording date with Jimmy Smith, however, that launched the saxophonist's solo career. They had been jam-session buddies back in Pittsburgh, and in 1960, the organist invited Turrentine into the studio. The resulting session with guitarist Kenny Burrell and drummer Donald Bailey produced two albums for Blue Note, "Midnight Special" and "Back at the Chicken Shack," deeply funky blues-drenched records widely regarded as definitive examples of soul jazz.

The session also brought him to the attention of Blue Note owner Alfred Lion, who quickly signed him

to the label. The fruitful relationship produced about two dozen albums through the '60s, though Turrentine also found time to record a classic session on Impulse! with his then-wife, Shirley Scott, "Let It Go." Over the years, Turrentine has continued to refine his sound. And no matter the setting, his irrepressible soulfulness has cut through, connecting him



with his audience.

"I've just been fortunate that I've got a following that likes what I play," he says. "That's the simple truth. I've been very fortunate and blessed to be able to work often at the best places around the world. I'm not trying to analyze what I do. I don't know what I might do on stage. I just try to have fun."

CONTRA COSTA NEWSPAPERS
CONTRA COSTA TIMES WEST COUNTY TIMES
VALLEY TIMES SAN RAMON VALLEY TIMES

Dr. Merle Grade Organization
Orange Parks & Recreation
San Francisco Magazine
San Jose Mercury News
Seafarers
Star City Starbucks Coffee Company
Tivoli
Universal Studio

Coastal Cleanup Day
Presented by BRITA
American River Council
Bank of America
Bay TV
California State Parks Foundation
(DR/LMB)
Center for Marine Conservation

Calendar

Submissions to the Community Calendar must be received Thursdays one week prior to publication. Listings are on a space-available basis.

Children

Luna Kids Dance (LKD) offers dance and acting classes for children and teens ages 3-17 in a fun and supportive environment. Locations: Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Ave.; El Cerrito, Contra Costa Civic Theater, 951 Pomona Ave., Oakland; Glenview Performing Arts Center, 1318 Glenview Ave. and Montclair Women's Cultural Arts Club, 1650 Mountain Blvd. For more information, call the LKD central office at 530-4113.

LGBTQ Parent and Prospective Parent Group meets the first Saturday of the month 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. with concurrent childcare. All groups meet at the Pacific Center at 2712 Telegraph Ave. in Berkeley. Donations are requested, but not required. For information or to RSVP, contact Anna at famlyprogram@yahoo.com or 415-789-8560 classes.

The Ann Martin Children's Center offers "eight" Support Groups For Mothers, sessions for first time mothers and babies their babies under 5 months. Experienced facilitator. For information: 524-0821.

Lawrence Hall of Science, UC Berkeley's public science museum and center for K-12 science and math education offers three residential summer science camps, including two camps held at the University of California field research stations; and three Sierra backpacking summer science camps. Each camp emphasizes fun outdoor science explorations through hands-on, inquiry-based activities, as well as lots of traditional camp fun. Each camp has a unique theme, and is designed for a specific age group. Call 642-2279 or e-mail to: lscinfo@uclink.berkeley.edu. To register, call 642-5134.

Theater Rats, "Julie Morgan's kid's theater camp program, offers swimming, singing, dancing, acting, and field games as some of its exciting activities. The camp is a two-week session for kids 6-14. Call 883-7023 for additional information.

Health

Charcot Marie Tooth (CMT) support group meets Saturdays bimonthly at West Berkeley Library, 1125 University Ave. from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. CMT is a neuropathic disorder. Call 524-3506 for additional information.

YWCA Health and Community Education; drop in classes in dance, fitness, yoga, martial arts and more; University YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way; 848-6370; \$8 - \$10.

Community

Albany YMCA is hiring staff for After-school programs in Berkeley and Albany for Afterschool programs in Berkeley and Albany. Site coordinator, recreation coordinator. Complete an application or send fax resume to Albany YMCA 921 Kains Ave., Albany, CA 94706. Fax 525-1769.

Point Richmond's Our Lady of Mercy Church, 301 West Richmond Ave., holds its annual summer barbecue on Sunday, Sept. 3, from noon to 4 p.m. in the parish hall. The event is a Jubilee Year 2000 celebration, all proceeds will be used to purchase a new stove for the parish hall. Activities include entertainment and a raffle. Dinner includes a New York steak. Cost: \$15 for adults; tickets may be purchased at the door. For more information, call 232-1834.

The UC Forest Products Laboratory's open house takes place on Thursday, Sept. 7, 1-4 p.m. at the University of California Forest Products Laboratory, 1301 S. 46th St., Richmond.

The Julia Morgan Center for the Arts is alive and buzzing with vibrant new programs and quality local theatre. Celebrate the JMC's new presence at its Open House on Saturday, Sept. 9, 4-7 p.m. at the Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave. Enjoy food and drink from Elmwood restaurants and shops, see talented local performers, win raffle prizes and tour the architecturally stunning home. For additional information, and to RSVP, call 845-8542 ext. 379.

"Hecho en Califas," La Pena Cultural Center's week-long series is Wednesday Sept. 20 through Sunday, Sept. 24. The series mixes several genres: spoken word, performance, live music etc. For additional information, call 849-2568 ext. 15 for additional information.

Program for Adult College Education (PACE) is open at Vista Community College through Saturday, Sept. 9. PACE is a college alternative for adults with job and family responsibilities. The program allows them to finish their freshman and sophomore years in 2-1/2 to three years, then transfer to a four-year college to complete their bachelor's degrees. Counseling, financial aid, career planning, and library services are available to all PACE students. Phone 981-2880 for information about enrollment.

The San Pablo Neighborhood Council, Berkeley's oldest and historic neighborhood association, celebrates its 50th anniversary on Saturday, Sept. 23, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at San Pablo Park, Oregon and Ward Streets. There will be

games for children, vendors, food and drink, softball, basketball and tennis tournaments, live entertainment, talent show, and recognition of the founders City Service information booth will be available. Volunteers are still welcomed. For additional information, call 845-4951.

The North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst/MLK Jr. Way, presents a Golden Age Party, honoring seniors over 90 years old. The center is a non-profit senior citizen center dedicated to serving the Berkeley community. For more information, call Maggie or Suzanne at 644-6107.

The Women's Cancer Resource Center, 1581 University Ave., will provide information at Wild Oats Market as part of its Women's Health Day. Help support the center and also enjoy free chair massages, spinal screenings, nutritional consulting and product samples. The center provides information, support and direct services to women with cancer in the Bay Area and nationally. Call Tammy Dyson, volunteer coordinator at 548-9286 ext. 304 for additional information.

Berkeley Higashii Honganji Church, 1524 Oregon St. (near Ashby Avenue), presents an Ohana Bazaar. There will be games, prizes and activities for the children. Also Japanese food (Teriyaki chicken, sushi, udon noodles and more). Free admission. Bring the family. Call 843-6933 for additional information.

Turning Point at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, sponsor Resume Clinics on Tuesday afternoons, or by appointment.

To sign up for an appointment, leave a message several days before you would like to meet. Anne Levine Ph.D. has a background in Design and Education. For the past 10 years, she has assisted in producing numerous resumes as part of her desktop publishing business. Call 848-6370 for additional information.

Marion Rosen, founder of Rosen Method bodywork and movement, presents the Method through lecture, demonstration, and experimental practice. Rosen is joined in the presentation by Sara Webb, Senior Teacher of Rosen Method bodywork. Location: Feldenkrais Resources, 830 Bancroft Way. Admission \$10. Reservations are strongly recommended. For more information or to make a reservation, contact Abby Payne, at 845-6606.

Berkeley's Office of Emergency Services presents a new series of free Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) classes. The classes give basic, practical information, including hands-on training in fire suppression, light search and rescue, and disaster first aid. All classes are held at the fire department's Emergency Operations Center, 997 Cedar St. The classes are open to everyone, 18 or older, who lives or works in Berkeley. To register, or for more information, call the Office of Emergency Services, 844-8736.

Berkeley Art Museum, Pacific Film Archive offers a guided tour of Equal Partner: Men and Women Principals in Contemporary Architectural Practice presented by graduate students from the UC-Berkeley Department of Architecture, College of Environmental Design on Alternating Thursdays at 12:15

ACROSS

- 1 Michener best seller
- 7 Fed. loan agency
- 10 Nolan Ryan, for one
- 15 Where to do some bodywork?
- 18 Gets the red out?
- 19 National League division
- 21 Limonite's pigment
- 22 Legend on the ice
- 23 Temporarily
- 24 Certain partner: Abbr.
- 25 They come on the 25th
- 26 It may be tidy
- 27 Ending with Juan
- 28 "The Carpet-Bag," in "Moby-Dick"
- 30 With 63-Down, a New Mexico county
- 31 Confectioner's goot?
- 35 Introduced
- 37 Merle Haggard, self-admittedly
- 38 Troubadour's tune
- 39 One of Thor Heyerdahl's boats
- 41 Snap brim, e.g.
- 42 Washington dingbat?
- 47 They're cross-shaped
- 48 Lixivium

DOWN

- 1 Fido's greeting
- 2 Minor (northern constellation)
- 3 Keep in a cellar, maybe
- 60 Colada
- 72 Dress decoration?
- 90 With 118 Across, part of a child's schooling
- 92 Tech stock choice
- 103 One with unusually fine hands?
- 105 Goon
- 106 Lighter producer
- 107 Outmoded copper
- 108 Trans. (Asian range)
- 109 Like some nuts
- 113 Hertfordshire river
- 114 Calyx segment
- 115 Jiffs
- 116 Dominican's dwelling
- 117 Southwest extension
- 118 See 90-Across
- 119 Book before Esh.
- 120 Line feeder, of a sort
- 121 NFL coach with 347 career victories
- 122 Castle site?
- 123 Keep in a cellar, maybe
- 124 Colada
- 125 Window alternative
- 126 Swift contemporary
- 127 One of the rare earths
- 128 Like some face powders
- 129 Terra's taboo?
- 130 See 84-Down
- 131 Play in an alley
- 132 Not-spectacular
- 133 Blue predeer or follower
- 134 Crow, e.g.
- 135 Reel
- 136 Rand
- 137 It's known for its bell ringers
- 138 Sports stat
- 139 Window alternative
- 140 Side flaps
- 141 Flashy dance?
- 142 Terra's Guadaluquivir, e.g.
- 143 See 30-Across
- 144 Cultural Revolution leader
- 145 Side flaps
- 146 Easy dupes
- 147 Flashy dance?
- 148 Terra's Guadaluquivir, e.g.
- 149 Stand in
- 150 Soko
- 151 Jason's charge controls
- 152 Hives, medically

p.m. and on Sundays at 2 p.m. For additional information call 642-0808

Overeaters Anonymous meet Fridays at 1:30 PM at the Northbrae Community Church in Berkeley, 941 The Alameda between Solano and Marin avenues, in Room 2—the childcare room—parents may bring their children. This organization is for individuals who eat compulsively? For further information, call Katherine at 525-5231.

Toastmasters, do it now. Stand up and say what you mean. Come practice Tuesday, noon to 1 p.m. at 700 Heinz Ave. Call 883-6708 for additional information.

Civil Rights activists needed. Write the ACLU chapter of Berkeley, Albany, Richmond, and Kensington, P.O. Box 11141, Berkeley, CA 94701

"Work Buddies"; volunteers needed to perform volunteer work with people in early stage Alzheimer's Disease. Minimum six-month commitment, two to three hours per week. Training provided. Contact Nannette Lipton, 644-8292.

Psychic Healing clinic; 7 to 9 p.m. Mondays; free clinic at the Academy for Psychic Studies in Berkeley, aura cleansing, stress relief; 1-800-642-9355

SMART project; the Alcohol Research

DOUBLE OR NOTHING

By DANA MOTLEY / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

49 London's Old 93 You, to Yves 7 Fossil fuel found in coastal veins

50 60's campus news 94 Inventor Sikorsky

51 Forceful group? 95 Traps Samoan simpleton?

52 Men in the hood? 102 Physics Nobelist Penzias

53 Part of P.S. I Abbi 103 One with unusually fine hands?

54 Mexican sandal 104 Five-star Penzias

55 Texas state tree 105 Autumn arrival

56 60's campus news 106 Churchill's Finest Hour?

57 Street that hosts a music festival 107 Outmoded copper

58 Clash, for one 108 Trans. (Asian range)

59 Samoan simpleton? 109 Like some nuts

60 Men in the hood? 110 Five-star

61 Street that hosts a music festival 111 Autumn arrival

62 Clash, for one 112 Churchill's Finest Hour?

63 Clash, for one 113 It may bring on a sigh

64 Clash, for one 114 Hosp. site

65 Clash, for one 115 Medicore steamed dish?

66 "Magnum, P.I." 116 Branch managers'

67 Setting 117 Philip II

68 "Magnum, P.I." 118 Dispatched it

69 Kisses 119 Letter drop, e.g.

70 Victorian 120 Circular tube

71 Major introduction? 121 20th-century tree painting?

72 Serial novel's start 122 Play in an alley

73 It gets hot water 123 Not-spectacular

74 Stunt 124 Blue predeer or follower

75 X into MX 125 Like some face powders

76 Into 126 Terra's Guadaluquivir, e.g.

77 Kind of propeller 127 See 84-Down

78 Loud line locate 128 Terra's Guadaluquivir, e.g.

79 NFL coach with 347 career victories 129 Stand in

80 See 30-Across 130 Soko

81 See 30-Across 131 Jason's charge

82 Castle site? 132 Hives, medically

83 Keep in a cellar, maybe 133 It's known for its bell ringers

84 Colada 134 Flashy dance?

85 Window alternative 135 See 30-Across

86 Swift contemporary 136 Terra's Guadaluquivir, e.g.

87 One of the rare earths 137 Stand in

88 Like some face powders 138 Hives, medically

89 Terra's Guadaluquivir, e.g. 139 It's known for its bell ringers

90 Window alternative 140 Five-star

91 See 30-Across 141 Five-star

92 Clash, for one 142 Five-star

93 You, to Yves 143 Five-star

94 Inventor 144 Five-star

95 Traps 145 Five-star

96 Samoan simpleton? 146 Five-star

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163 Samoan simpleton? 214 Five-star

164 Samoan simpleton? 2

Calendar

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Berkeley Art Museum and Park Annex, 2625 Durant Ave., Berkeley. The Architecture of the Environment, a collection of more than 100 models through Sept. 17. Tuesdays-Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission: \$4; members, \$2. Berkeley students and children under 12 are free. Call 642-0808 for information.

Summer's Solo Exhibition, a solo exhibition by Esther Adler takes place at the Kennedy Arts Annex, 2956 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. Hours: through Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 1-5 p.m. For additional information call 649-2073.

Medical Center presents work by members of the California Watercolor Association at its Community Art Center, 2450 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. The main corridor to the left of the entrance desk and main entrance is open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission: \$4; members, \$2. Berkeley students and children under 12 are free. Call 642-0808 for information.

New Pieces, a solo exhibition by Anna New presents work by artists for the year 1999. Located on Soano Avenue, New Pieces gallery shows quilts, dolls and doll sculptures and dolls exhibits. The gallery is open during business hours. Monday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; and Sunday Noon to 5 p.m. For major holidays. Details: 523-9735.

Events

Annual Watershed Environmental Festival is Saturday, Sept. 9, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Berkeley's Civic Center, 2450 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. Former US Poet Laureate Robert Hass leads a list of noted poets and activists inviting the community to celebrate nature at a free day of music, art, and interactive environmental events. Highlights include: Poets Michael McClure, Kay & Young, Sharon Doubiago, and judges authors Julia Butterfly Hill, Ernest Callenbach and David Schwartz. For program updates see Web site www.flash.org or call 525-5476.

Author of *The Packing Secrets of the Carry-On Traveler* for popular demonstration on how to pack for three weeks, two clients in one manageable carry-on bag. The presentation takes place at Easy Going Travel Shop and Lounge, 1395 Shattuck Ave. For additional information, call 843-3533.

Reading Edge is available for public use at the Berkeley Public Library, 2121 Allston Way. The computer scans text and reads it back aloud in a synthesized voice. It's available anyone with a disability that requires access to print material. Users can complete a brief training session using the Reading Edge; after no reservations are needed. Call the Reference Desk at 644-6648 to set up a time to use the service.

Readings at Kensington 55-plus Activity Center, Kensington Ave., Kensington, meet on Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Kensington Senior Center is sponsored by West Contra Costa Adult Education and Arlington Community Center. For additional information, call 547-1969.

TCWA offers free orientations every Saturday at 10 a.m. of its Turning Point Center, 2600 Bancroft Street. The orientations outline the center's resources and the variety of work opportunities offered to the public. For additional information, call 848-6370.

Berkeley Camera Club meets every Saturday evening, 7:30 p.m. at the First Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley. Participants share prints and learn what other photographers are doing. Monthly field trips are available. For information, call 531-5000.

Smart! Join Beijing Express Meetup, the Smart Club! Meets each place Monday, 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. at Peking Express Restaurant Center. For additional information, call 549-9671.

Meeting: Stand up and say what you mean. Come practice every Tuesday, Noon to 1 p.m. at 1870 Duran, Berkeley. Call 883-1000 for additional information.

Pounds Off Sensibly (TOPS) meets every Thursday evening at the First Presbyterian Church, Richmond, on Solano Avenue. Call Betty Coates 235-2000 for more information.

Yiddish: Yiddish conversation at 1 p.m. at the North Berkeley Senior Center, 101 Hearst. Call 644-6107 for additional information. The Berkeley Community Toastmasters Club meet on the first and third Wednesday of the month, 7:15 to 8:30 a.m. at the City Club, 2315 Durant. Details: 548-3765.

Berkeley Arthritis Support and Education Group meets on the second Friday of each month (except December) at 2:30 p.m. in the Maffay Auditorium, Campus, 2001 Dwight Whitney. Dr. Brian Kaye, a rheumatologist, treated many patients with various types of arthritis and will be available to answer questions. For additional information, call 644-4503.

Meeters on Campus meet the second and fourth Wednesday of each month from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. at the English Language Program Building, 2330 Telegraph. Details: 704-1822.

Speaking skills and metaphysics together at Avatar Metaphysical Seminar. On-going meetings first and third Thursdays, 6:15 to 7:30 p.m., 130 Telegraph Ave., Call 669-2547 for information.

Healing, Voices of Healing group for people living with life-limiting illnesses. Meets second and fourth Thursdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m. at 130 Telegraph, Call 528-1235 for information.

Health Toastmasters Club meet the second, third and fourth Thursdays,

day of the month from 12:10 to 1:10 p.m. at the State Health building, 2151 Berkeley Way. Details: 649-7750.

Holiday Alignment: 7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Mondays; fun, informative seminar creating spiritual partnerships, Feldenkrais Center, 830 Bancroft Way, Berkeley; (415) 461-5337; \$20.

Alta Bates Support Groups - Arthritis

Support Group meets the second Tuesdays of every month, 1-2:30 p.m., 204-4503. Call for additional special events.

Overeaters Anonymous, a 12 step program providing free aid for those with eating problems, meets in Berkeley every Saturday at 8:30 a.m. (newcomers at 8 a.m.) at St. John's Church, 2727 College Ave. and in Richmond every Thursday at 7 p.m. at Kaiser Hospital, 901 Nevin (take Elevator C to the third floor). For further information, call 273-9292.

TOPS: 9:30 a.m., Mondays; Take Pounds Off Sensibly, Albany Chapter meets at 980 Stannage St. at Marin; 233-2948 Karen, 525-6858.

Avatar Metaphysical Toastmasters;

meetings on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month from 6:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Call 643-7645.

Toromasters; noon - 1 p.m. Tuesdays; stand up and say what you mean; practice with the toastmasters; 700 Heinz Ave., Berkeley; 883-6708.

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Alta Bates Rehabilitation Center and

East Bay Neurology sponsors a free monthly stroke support group. No advance reservations are required, drop-in anytime. The group meets the first Tuesday of each month from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Maffay Auditorium on Herrick Campus, 2001 Dwight Way, Berkeley. Details: 204-4503.

Music

Singer and Social activist Barbara Dane with Juke Joint Johnny Harper, guitar and Folk-singer Francisco Javier Herrera perform Wednesday, Sept. 13, 7 p.m. at La Pena Cultural Center, 3150 Shattuck Ave. The performance is a benefit for the Campaign to Abolish Poverty—Full Employment Coalition.

Dane has been singing for social justice since the early 1960s. In 1966, she became the first US musician to tour post-revolutionary Cuba. Herrera sings a blend of US and Latin American Folk.

Admission: \$10-\$25. For questions or to reserve tickets, all CAP at 415-928-1205.

Freight & Salvage, 1111 Addison St., presents "An Evening With Odetta," classic blues, folk, gospel singer on Friday, Sept. 1. Doors open at 7:30 p.m., show time is 8 p.m. Odetta is involved with fighting for racial, political and cultural equality. She marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Selma, sang

for President John F. Kennedy at a Civil Rights ceremony, and was the featured performer at last year's Amnesty International USA's Third Annual Media Spotlight Awards in NYC. For additional information, call 548-1761.

Recorder Players

The East Bay Recorder Society begins its new year on Friday, Sept. 8 at 7:30 p.m., in the choir room at St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Ave. at Garber.

Meets monthly, all playing levels welcome. Bring recorders and music stand. Professional conductor. Call Glen Shannon at 510/525-1249 for more information.

"Street Sounds," an acapella quintet committed to performing traditional, contemporary and original songs perform Friday, Sept. 1, 8 p.m. at La Pena Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave. The group's performance is a rich smorgasbord creating a tapestry of blues, jazz, African charts, rap, R&B, doo-wop and civil rights songs. Admission: \$10 advance, \$12 at the door. Call 849-2568 for additional information.

Berkeley Community Chorus begins rehearsals Sept. 11. Both experienced and non-experienced singers can join; no auditions or previous choral experience are necessary and extra help with learning the music is available. Rehearsals are very Monday night, 7-10 p.m. Concerts date are Dec. 2, 9, and

10. Rehearsals are held at St. Ambrose Church basement 1145 Gilman St. Tuition is \$75 a at the door, or \$65 if you register before Sept. 4. Extra charge for musical score. Scholarships are available and full time students get a 50 percent tuition reduction. For more information, call 528-2145 or visit www.bcco.org.

Outdoors

The Distaff Singers, an established East Bay Women's chorus, is seeking new members. No auditions required, just a love of singing. Classical, pop, sacred, Broadway. Rehearsals Tuesday nights, 7:15 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. Call Michelle 601-5624, or L.J. 482-1677.

Duckman Distones, featuring Donald Duckman on piano, vocals, harmonica, Isaiah Dixon, Acoustic Bass, Michael Lankford, Drums and Larry Giustino on Fretless Gibson L4, perform every Saturday night from 10 to 11 p.m. at Anna's Place, 1801 University at Grant. All ages welcome.

Friday Night Folk Dancing: 8 p.m. - 11 p.m.; no partners necessary for line dances taught from Rumania, Bulgaria, Israel, Turkey, Near East and other lands each Friday from 8 p.m. to 9

p.m., followed by request dances from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. No experience necessary - all ages welcome. Albany YMCA, 901 Kains Ave.; \$4; call 525-1542.

Outdoors

Learn to feed and care for orphaned baby birds: house sparrows, starlings and pigeons are introduced species that are not afforded care by rehabilitation groups. You can make an important contribution in returning these species to the wild life they deserve to have. Free training and some supplies. Call Myrna 531-3042 or Leila 6555-3911.

Turning Point at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, offers "Scrabble Time," a technique that helps participants understand themselves and to find focus. The group meets on Tuesdays by appointment and is free to YWCA members. Call 848-6370 for additional information, leave a message for Anna Levine.

East Bay Regional Park Botanical Garden Tilden Park, presents regular tours, seven days a week. Week days 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays, and Sundays 2 p.m. Special tours by appointment. Call 841-8732. For a schedule of upcoming classes call 925-820-1021.

See CALENDAR, Page C8

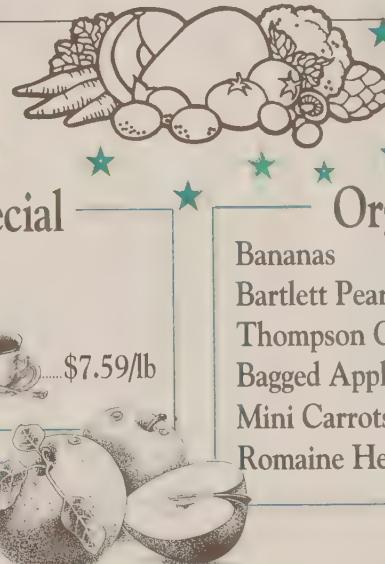
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Calendar

FROM PAGE C7

Support

"The Grief Care Community" offers 8-week bereavement support groups as well as art therapy grief groups, and individual support. Call 540-0830 for additional information.

The local self-help group for Berkeley National Multiple Sclerosis Society meets periodically. Call Toni at 653-4534 for additional information.

Alta Bates Medical Center Herrick Campus offers a guided relaxation and visualization for people with cancer every Thursday, 5-6 p.m. at its Comprehensive Cancer Center, first floor Conference Room, 2001 Dwight Way. The Center offers this solution with an innovative approach to reducing stress and anxiety and creating positive, life-affirming images. Call 204-1811 for additional information. Call 204-1811 for additional information.

Alta Bates Medical Center, offers a Grief Education Class every third Saturday of each month, 10 a.m. to noon at ABMC Herrick Campus, 2001 Dwight Way. The class covers common and personal grief reactions. Fee \$10. No one is referred due to inability to pay. For further information, contact 841-2930.

Alta Bates Medical Center, 3001 Dwight Way, offers support group classes for stroke survivors and their families and friends on the first Tuesday of the month, from 4-5 p.m. at the Herrick Campus of Alta Bates Medical Center. There is no admission charge and advance registration is not necessary. Call 204-4503 for additional information.

The Comprehensive Cancer Center and Breast Cancer Center, Alta Bates Medical Center, 3001 Dwight Way, offers a support group for friends and families coping with cancer. The support group is offered on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. This is a free service. Call 204-1811 for additional information.

The Lupus Foundation of Northern California is still accepting applications for its Youth Pilot Support Program currently underway at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford. The group meets monthly and is open to teens suffering from lupus and other rheumatic diseases. For more information, call (408) 954-8600 or visit www.batt.org.

The City of Berkeley Portable Meals program desperately needs drivers to deliver 15 meals a week to home-bound seniors. Call 644-8590.

The North Berkeley Senior Center is also seeking volunteers to work in its gift shop, coffee bar and dining area three to four hours, one day a week. Call 644-6107.

The Berkeley Arthritis Support and Education group presents Dorothy Dorenz, a state certified massage and movement therapist, who teaches self-healing methods. Bring a small pillow, and wear loose, comfortable clothing. For directions or more information, call 204-4503.

Lecture/Workshop

The Women's Cancer Resource Center presents "What's Cancer Got to Do With It?" on Tuesday, Sept. 12, 6-8:30 p.m. at La Pena Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave. Find out what your legal rights are in employment and medical insurance, even if you have a history of cancer or are in the midst of cancer treatment. Topics include the ADA and COBRA. The free legal workshop is presented by Plaintiff's Employment Law Attorney Janis Eggleston, ERISA attorney Janet Brown and Dan Hersh, Health Insurance Specialist with Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA). To pre-register or for more information, call Catherine Porter, WCRC Legal Services Coordinator, at 548-9286, ext. 303.

The YWCA offers free orientations of its Turning Point Career Center. The orientations outline the resources available to the public as well as the different

things that the center has to offer such as a great variety of workshops. They are held every Tuesday, at 1:30 p.m. The Turning Point Career Center is located at 2600 Bancroft Way. For more information, call 548-6370.

The YWCA offers free orientations of its Turning Point Career Center, 2600 Bancroft Way, every Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. The orientations outline the resources available to the public as well as the different things that the center has to offer such as its great variety of workshops. For more information, call 848-6370.

Learn Computer Applications for the "working" world: Using Windows '95 and '98 and Microsoft Office 2000 software, Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint, Publisher. Class offered: Monday-Friday, 2:15-6:15 p.m. Location: Contra Costa County Office of Education, 13925 San Pablo Ave., Suite No. 111, San Pablo. For information call 237-0840 or visit the web site at www.cccoe.k12.ca.us/rp.

"What is Meditation?" is a peaceful and practical introduction to the basics of meditation. The free seminar takes place at Barnes & Noble Booksellers, 2352 Shattuck Ave. Pragto Dove is the facilitator. Call 644-0861 for additional information.

Emotions Anonymous: Twelve-Step meetings every Sunday at 8 p.m. Call 236-8226 for Berkeley location.

Religion

Theater, Dance & Film

Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison St., begins its 33rd season with Carlo Gozzi's farce tale "The Green Bird (1765)," in a new adaptation by Theatre de la Jeune Lune. The play opens Sept. 13 and closes Oct. 27. Previews are Sept. 8. Directed by Dominique Serand, the production combines the theatrical style of commedia dell'arte with the formal conventions of Kabuki. Tickets are priced between \$20.25 and \$51. The theatre is accessible to the handicapped. For information or to charge tickets by phone with VISA, MasterCard or Discover, call the theater at 845-4700 or toll free at 888-4-BRITIX. Additional information and on line ticketing are available at www.bre-leyrep.org.

Family Folkdancing takes place on the third Sundays, 1:20-3 p.m. at Ashkenaz Music and Dance Community Center, 1317 San Pablo Ave. Instructor: Denise Schultz Weiss. Bring your feet and a spirit of fun. No experience necessary. An opportunity for families to dance and laugh together. Drop in for fun and exercise. All ages welcome. Drop-in class, no registration needed. Adults \$3, children \$2. Call 632-3713 for additional information.

The Masquers Playhouse of Point Richmond presents "The Rivals" by Richard Brinsley Sheridan, on Friday and Saturday through Sept. 30, 8 p.m. Sunday matinees are on Sept. 10, 17, and 24, 2:30 p.m. The play is one of England's all-time great comedies. Tickets: \$10. For reservations, call 232-4031.

Swing Dance Classes! Learn East coast swing and Lindy Hop with Michael and Persephone of Shagtime Dance Instruction, on Mondays at the Work Studio,

2566 Telegraph Ave. Beginning Lindy Hop runs 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. East Coast Swing from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. and beginning Lindy Hop 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Tuesdays, at The Beat, 2560 Ninth St. Classes run as a monthly series. For more information, call Michael Marano at 528-7858.

Classes

The Berkeley Adult School (BAS) offers Adult Basic Education classes, High School Diploma Requirement classes, General Educational Development Preparation classes which can be utilized to earn a GED certificate, and Preparation for US Citizenship classes.

The classes are free. BAS also offers, for an affordable fee, a variety of vocational classes and computer classes, ranging from introduction to Computers to Advanced Computer Applications.

The South Berkeley Senior Center, 2939 Ellis St., offers a variety of classes. For additional information and class scheduling, call 883-5222.

Interview Clinics sponsored by Turning Point Center at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, are held on Monday mornings from 9-11 by appointment. 30-minute sessions are \$15 for YWCA members and \$20 for non-members. Call the Center at 848-6370 and leave a message to reserve an appointment time. Be sure to leave a name and telephone number.

Turning Point at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, presents Scribble Time on Tuesdays, by appointment. The class is free to YWCA members. This technique is designed to help individuals understand themselves better. Call 848-6370 for additional information. Leave a message for Anne Levine.

The Ecology Center, 2530 San Pablo Ave., presents an introductory class for the home fruit grower. Proper pruning increases the flavor and size of fruit, as well as preserves the health and longevity of the tree. There will also be a demonstration of various pruning tools. The class is taught by Greg Peck, owner of an organic landscape and garden design business in the East Bay. Cost is \$10 for nonmembers; \$7.50 for members. Call 548-2220 to reserve a space.

The van der Zanden Studio, 1025 Carleton, No. 9, offers sculpture classes. All levels. Call 843-9445 for additional information.

A CopWatch class takes place every Monday night from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at 2022 Blake St. near Shattuck. Know your rights. The classes are free. Call 548-0425 for additional information.

Berkeley Community Media (BCM), Channel 25, offers affordable classes in video production and editing to Berkeley residents. Free orientations designed to introduce BCM to the public are held on Thursdays, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at 2239 Martin Luther King Jr. Way. For more information call 848-2288 and ask for Patrick, John or Sage.

Ashkenaz, 1317 San Pablo Ave., offers many dances classes ranging from Afro-Cuban to Kalarinal Dances of India, to West Coast Swing to Lindy Hop and East Coast Swing. The Ashkenaz is a nonprofit music and dance community

center. Call 525-5054 for additional information.

Life Stories/Collage and Ceramics classes forming at St. John's Senior Center, 2727 College Ave., Tuesday mornings 9 a.m. to noon. All are welcome. Free. Sponsored by Berkeley Adult School. Teachers are Diana and Judith Carroll. Call 845-6830 for additional information.

Contemporary Women's Issues class is forming at the North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst St. Free class offered by the Berkeley Adult School. taught by Judith Carroll, MFCC. Friday mornings 10 a.m. to noon. Open to all women 55 or older. Call 644-6107 for additional information.

Dance and Fitness Classes open to all in flamenco, Afro-Brazilian, bellydance, salsa, swing, balloon, tap, theatre dance, yoga, chi gung, tai chi, akido, pilates-based body conditioning and more at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way. Berkeley. Drop in fees: \$8-10. Information 848-6370.

Let's Swing and Jitterbug, 7 p.m. beginning classes, 8 p.m. intermediate; four-week dance classes beginning the first Tuesday of the month; Finnish Brotherhood Hall, 1970 Chestnut, Berkeley; Diana Castillo, 549-3591, \$40 for four classes.

Volunteers

Volunteers are needed at the Alameda County Community Food Bank to staff emergency food referral service, the Hunger Hotline. Shifts are available on Monday and Tuesday mornings, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Call volunteer coordinator Mary Schoen at 834-FOOD for more information and a current volunteer newsletter.

Contra Costa County Volunteers in Probation are continually seeking dependable volunteers, 21 years plus, who want to spend time with youth on probation. Training will be provided and screening of all applicants is required by the Probation Department. If you are interested, call Kat Thompson, Director of Volunteers in Probation 925-313-4187 or email kmthompson@hot-mail.co

The City of Albany Recreation and Community Services Department is seeking experience fitness instructors in many areas of exercise and training, including Tiny Tot Tumbling, Rompergym, acrobatics, youth dance, adult aerobics and yoga. If you have experience and have taught contact Recreation supervisor, John Medlock at 524-9283 or come by the Albany Community center at 1249 Mann avenue for an instructor application.

UC Botanical Garden is looking for volunteers who are interested in plants and would like to learn how to give tours of the Garden. Knowledge of plants is useful, but not required, and prior teaching experience is also helpful, but not essential. Principal qualifications are to like plants and to enjoy people.

The training teaches about the Garden and how to lead tours. Call 643-11924 for more information and an application.

Lawrence Hall of Science (LHS), the

public science center at UC Berkeley is looking for volunteers who wish to learn more about science and science education, meet new friends, and help children and families enjoy science. Volunteers need not have a science background but should have a desire to learn and enjoy working in a dynamic, people-friendly environment.

Orientation session begins Thursday, Sept. 28, 9 a.m. to 12 noon and weekend volunteers on Saturday, Sept. 30, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. For more information or to receive an application form, call 643-5471.

Crisis Support Services of Alameda County, needs volunteers to provide telephone crisis intervention for its 24-hour crisis lines. No prior experience required, excellent training provided. Call 848-1515 for additional information.

The Richmond Public Library seeks Internet Docents to teach Internet skills and to provide hands-on assistance to library patrons. Volunteers are needed for the main library Adult Department, the Children's Department, and the Bayview or West Side branch libraries.

Volunteers agree to work with the public for at least one three-hour slot per week for a three month period. Solid Internet skills, including knowledge of Netscape Navigator, Internet Explorer and the ability to use two search engines well are required. Applications are available at the information desk at the main library or at the two branches.

For more information, call 620-6561.

Women's Daytime Drop-In Center in Berkeley needs volunteers. The center serves women who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Volunteers are needed for morning and afternoon shifts. For more information, call 548-6933.

Volunteers needed at Good Stuff Shop in El Cerrito. A fun, friendly place to work, all proceeds benefit developmentally disabled children and adults. Call 528-9455 for additional information.

Women's Cancer Resource Center, Shattuck Ave., needs compassionate volunteers to help women with cancer through its information and referral line, library, or in-home practical support. Time requirements are two to four hours per week for 6-12 months. Call 548-9286 ext. 309 for an application form and more information.

Parental Stress Service, Inc. seeks volunteers to serve as Telephone Home Counselors. The agency offers supportive counseling to families who need to be heard. To learn more about volunteer opportunities call 893-9230.

Volunteer at The Crucible, 1035 M St. Sharpen skills, and meet new people in the community. All talents are appreciated. The Crucible is an educational collaboration of arts, industry and community. Call 843-5511 or e-mail crucible@jps.net for more information on how to get involved.

There is an immediate need for Help Delivered Meal volunteers at the "Casa House." Senior Center to deliver meal to the homebound in El Cerrito, Richmond, and San Leandro. For more information, call 215-4342.

Breast Cancer Action, an advocacy activist organization aimed to accomplish the changes necessary to end the breast cancer epidemic, is seeking volunteers. A wide variety of volunteer opportunities, including events, advocacy and task force help, and office work during the week, are available. Call 415-243-9301, for additional information.

See CALENDAR, Page C8

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Are you tripping over stuff in the garage while your new car sits outside? Need space for your favorite hobby, workshop, or a playhouse? Home overrun by seasonal items or collectables? You can solve these, and other nagging space needs with a built-to-order shed from THE SHED SHOP.

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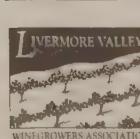
NOON to 5 p.m.

This year the wineries share their personal dream weekend in the historic Livermore Valley. Visit each winery to collect that winery's "weekend recipe" card, complete with dining tips, lodging recommendations, an insider's perspective on intriguing places to visit, things to do and ways to discover all that this hidden wine country has to offer. And then, experience the foods, places and wines that they recommend as they host many of their favorites at each winery.

PRICE: \$25 in advance (\$30 if purchased day of the event) includes both days of the Celebration, shuttle bus access and free wine tastings.

Purchase tickets at any of the participating wineries or by calling the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association at (925) 447-WINE (9463). You may also order tickets on our website at <http://www.livermorewine.com>.

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vents

BY PAGE C3

YOUNG PROGRAMS — Free after school admission. Young Computer Lab, ongoing. A lab for children to explore age-appropriate software and the Internet. For children age 5 and up accompanied by an adult. Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Biology Discovery Lab, re-opened through ongoing. In the Biology Lab visitors can observe gentle animals.

AQUARIUM — No knowledge of astronomy is required. Programs are recommended for ages 8 and up; children under age 6 will not be admitted. \$2 per child, \$5 per adult.

"How Big Is the Universe?" through Sept. 10. Learn about various ways to view the universe. Through Sept. 10.

"Discover the Solar System," Sept. 10. Take a tour of the planets and learn about the various worlds that orbit Earth.

"Constellations Tonight" ongoing. At a simple star map, learn to identify the most prominent constellations in the season in the planetary sky. Daily, 3:30 p.m.

Seniors, students, children and youths age 7 to 18; \$3 general; free children under age 3 to 5; free children age 5 and under. Daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

CELESTIAL SEPT. 4. Centennial University of California, Berkeley, 642-5132 or www.berkeley.edu

Lake Oakland Certified Farmers Market — Ongoing. A chance to buy local organic produce and other goods.

Saturday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Emerson Boulevard and Grand Avenue, Oakland. (415) 456-FARM or 887-FARM.

London Square Farmers Market — Ongoing. A chance to buy fresh fruits and vegetables, cut flowers, baked goods, and more.

Sunday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Jack London Square, foot of Broadway, Oakland. (510) 814-6000 or www.london-square.com

Berkeley — Sept. 6 through Sept. 14. Series of lectures on hikes and equipment.

"2003 Climbing School," Sept. 6 and Sept. 7. Mountain Adventure

offers an introductory rock climbing school. Registration required. Wednesday, 6 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. (\$100 to \$110). (209) 753-3556.

Climbing and Climbing in Nepal, Sept. 7, 7 p.m. A slide presentation by Doug Sandok of Cucuro Adventures.

"New Zealand's South Island," Sept. 14, 7 p.m. Marv Schinckel gives a slide presentation and information on his latest touring adventure.

For Recreation and

"Beyond," Sept. 21, 7 p.m. A slide presentation by author John Dowd

"Trekking and Travel in the Himalayas," Sept. 22, 7 p.m. A presentation by author Arlene Blum.

"Weekend Travel Showcase," Sept. 23 and Sept. 24, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"Royal Robbins: 40 Years of Adventure," Sept. 23, 1 p.m. A slide presentation by rock climber and white-water kayaker Royal Robbins.

"Cycling in Tuscany," Sept. 23, 3 p.m. A slide presentation by Joe Stata.

"REI Adventures

"Backpacking the Southwest," Sept. 28, 7 p.m. A slide presentation by author Marisa Gierlich-Burgin.

Free unless otherwise noted. 1338 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. (510) 527-4140.

A.C.C.I. Gallery

"Paperworks," Sept. 1 through Oct. 7. A group exhibit of works by Carol Brighton, Vannie Keightley, Jean Hearn.

"Opening Reception," Sept. 1, 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Free. Tuesday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Friday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. 1652 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. (510) 843-2527.

Berkeley Art Center

"Ethnic Notions: Black Images in the White Mind," Sept. 10 through Nov. 12. An exhibit by Janette Faulkner exploring racial stereotypes in commercial imagery.

Free. Wednesday through Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. Live Oak Park, 1275 Walnut St., Berkeley. (510) 644-6893.

California College Of Arts And Crafts

"Add/Drop/Add: CCAC Fine Arts Faculty Exhibitions," Sept. 5 through Sept. 16.

"Opening Reception," Sept. 5 and Sept. 12, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Free. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Wednesday and Thursday, noon to 8 p.m.; Friday, noon to 5:30 p.m. Oakland History Room, 125 14th St. (510) 238-3222.

Elizabeth Oliveria Gallery

"Recent works by Franklin Williams," Sept. 5 through Sept. 30. This exhibit examines his signature style, interweaving a variety of sexual themes, emotions, and figures that recur, and the relationship between language and image, word and object.

"Artist Reception," Sept. 9, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

"Recent works by Ralph Ackerman and Patricia Freed Ackerman," closing Sept. 2. An exhibit of installations, film, and photography.

Free. Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. 942 Clay St., Oakland. (510) 625-1350.

Richmond Art Center

MAIN GALLERY

"Hecho En Califas: The Last Decade 1990-99," Sept. 2 through Nov. 11. A group exhibit of works by 31 California Latino, Chicano and Indigenous artists.

SOUTH GALLERY

"Livia Stein," Sept. 2 through Nov. 11. A solo exhibit of works.

WEST GALLERY

"Raymond L. Haywood/Oliver Negro Design Works," Sept. 2 through Nov. 11. A solo exhibit of works.

COMMUNITY GALLERY

"Sharing Our Stories," Sept. 2 through Nov. 11. An exhibit of artwork by the ART 10 teen residency program.

"Shades of Richmond," Sept. 2 through Nov. 11. An exhibit of 50 years of family photos.

"Quietly Reborn," Sept. 2 through Nov. 11. An exhibit of photographic prints, artwork and essays by Bay Area Iu Mien American youth.

"With A Song and A Dance," Sept.

Creative Growth

"Indelible Ink," closing Sept. 1. Selections from the Creative Growth Permanent Collection and new works.

Free. Monday through Friday, noon to 5:30 p.m. 355 24th St., Oakland. (510) 836-2344.

Kala Institute

"Layerings: New Work by Four Kala Fellows," through Sept. 28. The 2000 Kala Art Institute Fellowship Awards Exhibitions, Part II of works by Margaret M. Kessler, Barbara Milman, Michele Muenning, and David Pulitzer.

Free. Tuesday through Friday, noon to 5 p.m. Workshop Media Center Gallery, 1060 Heinz Ave., Berkeley. (510) 549-2977.

Laney College Art Gallery

"Hém...on the Edge," through Sept. 28. A collaborative exhibit of fashion art.

"Reception," Sept. 14, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

"Fashion Show," Sept. 14, 5:30 p.m.

"Fashion Accessories Sale," Sept. 14, 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Free. Monday and Thursday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. 900 Fallon St., Oakland. (510) 464-3586.

New Pieces Gallery

"ActaAroa/New Zealand Golden Bay Dreaming," Sept. 1 through Sept. 28. An exhibit of quilts by Liza Eastman.

"Earth Air Wind Fire," Sept. 1 through Sept. 28. An exhibit of dolls by Lorree Lee Harper.

Free. Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. 1597 Solano Ave., Berkeley. (510) 527-6779.

Oakland Public Library — MAIN LIBRARY

"Idora Park: Oakland's Greatest Amusement Park, 1903-1929," through Sept. 30. An exhibit featuring historical photographs, postcards, newspaper clippings, and programs of "Oakland's Million Dollar Summer Garden."

Free. Monday, Tuesday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Wednesday and Thursday, noon to 8 p.m.; Friday, noon to 5:30 p.m. Oakland History Room, 125 14th St. (510) 238-3222.

Traywick Gallery

"Blue Vinyl," Sept. 9 through Oct. 15. An exhibit of Iris prints and a sound installation by Connie Walsh.

"Charles LaBelle," Sept. 9 through Oct. 15. An exhibit of new work.

"Artist Reception," Sept. 12, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Free. Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. 1316 10th St., Berkeley. (510) 527-6887.

Crab Cove Visitor Center

"Marine Reserve Exploration," Sept. 2 and Sept. 3, 11 a.m. Explore along the bay.

Elizabeth Oliveria Gallery

"Recent works by Franklin Williams," Sept. 5 through Sept. 30. This exhibit examines his signature style, interweaving a variety of sexual themes, emotions, and figures that recur, and the relationship between language and image, word and object.

"Artist Reception," Sept. 9, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

"Recent works by Ralph Ackerman and Patricia Freed Ackerman," closing Sept. 2. An exhibit of installations, film, and photography.

Free. Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. 942 Clay St., Oakland. (510) 625-1350.

Richmond Art Center — MAIN GALLERY

"Hecho En Califas: The Last Decade 1990-99," Sept. 2 through Nov. 11. A group exhibit of works by 31 California Latino, Chicano and Indigenous artists.

SOUTH GALLERY

"Livia Stein," Sept. 2 through Nov. 11. A solo exhibit of works.

WEST GALLERY

"Raymond L. Haywood/Oliver Negro Design Works," Sept. 2 through Nov. 11. A solo exhibit of works.

COMMUNITY GALLERY

"Sharing Our Stories," Sept. 2 through Nov. 11. An exhibit of artwork by the ART 10 teen residency program.

"Shades of Richmond," Sept. 2 through Nov. 11. An exhibit of 50 years of family photos.

"Quietly Reborn," Sept. 2 through Nov. 11. An exhibit of photographic prints, artwork and essays by Bay Area Iu Mien American youth.

"With A Song and A Dance," Sept.

2 through Nov. 11. An exhibit of photographic prints featuring five music and dance traditions of the East Bay.

Artist Reception, Sept. 16, 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

SPECIAL EVENT —

"La Independencia De Son," Sept. 16, 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. A celebration of Mexican dance, music and poetry.

Free. Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Saturday, noon to 4:30 p.m. Civic Center Plaza, 2540 Barrett Avenue, Richmond. (510) 620-6772.

Royal Ground Gallery

"The Magic of Eight," through Oct. 29. An exhibit of painting, collage, mixed media, photography and sculpture.

Reception, Sept. 6, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Free. Daily 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. 2058 Mountain Blvd., Oakland. (510) 620-6772.

Traywick Gallery

"Blue Vinyl," Sept. 9 through Oct. 15. An exhibit of Iris prints and a sound installation by Connie Walsh.

"Charles LaBelle," Sept. 9 through Oct. 15. An exhibit of new work.

"Artist Reception," Sept. 12, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Free. Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. 1316 10th St., Berkeley. (510) 527-6887.

Crab Cove Visitor Center

"Marine Reserve Exploration," Sept. 2 and Sept. 3, 11 a.m. Explore along the bay.

"Coffee With Crabs," Sept. 2, 9 a.m. Visit the mudflat, then go indoors to examine aquarium creatures and sip coffee. Registration required.

"Toddler Adventures," Sept. 3, Sept. 10 and Sept. 24, 10 a.m. Outdoor exploration, crafts, songs and stories. Registration required. \$3.

"Labor Day Festivities," Sept. 4, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fun activities including a scavenger hunt, nature games, and more. Parking \$4.

"Sea Squirts," Sept. 5 and Sept. 12, 10 a.m. A program on Autumn Trees for age 3 to 5 years. Registration required. \$5 to \$7.

"Evening Concert at the Cove," Sept. 8, 5:30 p.m. Featuring Tee Fee

"Sea Squirts," Sept. 9, 4 p.m. A program on Acorns to Oaks for age 3 to 5 years. Registration required. \$5 to \$7.

"A Whale of a Program," Sept. 10, 2 p.m. Learn the characteristics of different whales. Registration required \$2.

"Pond Exploration," Sept. 30, 1 p.m. Explore a little piece of wilderness

Free unless otherwise noted. 1252 McKey Ave., Alameda. (510) 521-6887.

DUNSMUIR HOUSE AND GARDENS HISTORIC ESTATE — Nested in the Oakland hills, the 40-acre Dunsmuir House and Gardens estate includes the 37-room Neoclassical Revival Dunsmuir Mansion, built by coal and lumber baron Alexander Dunsmuir for his bride. The mansion is surrounded by restored outbuildings set amid landscaped gardens.

SPECIAL EVENT —

"Caribbean Rhythms," Sept. 3, noon to 3 p.m. The steel drum band performs an End of the Summer concert to wrap up the 2000 Family Sunday Series.

DOCENT-LED MANSION TOUR — through September. Wednesday, 11 a.m. and noon. Learn the stories of the families that built and lived in the mansion over the last century as well as receive an introduction to the surrounding historic landscape. Meet at the Dinkelspiel House near the main entrance of the estate.

FAMILY SUNDAYS — through September. First Sunday of the month, noon to 3 p.m. Programs include a Self-Guided Tree Hunt, Docent-led Mansion Tour, entertainment, and family activities.

GROUNDS — through October. The gardens and grounds of the mansion are open to the public. Tuesdays through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free.

\$5 general; \$4 seniors and children age 6 to 13; free children age 5 and under. Dunsmuir House and Gardens Historic Estate, 2960 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland. (925) 275-9490 or (510) 615-5555 or www.dunsmuir.org

HOLT PLANETARIUM — Programs are recommended for age 8 and up; children under age 6 will not be admitted.

"How Big Is the Universe," through Sept. 3. Learn about various ways to determine distances. Through Sept.

See EVENTS, Page C10

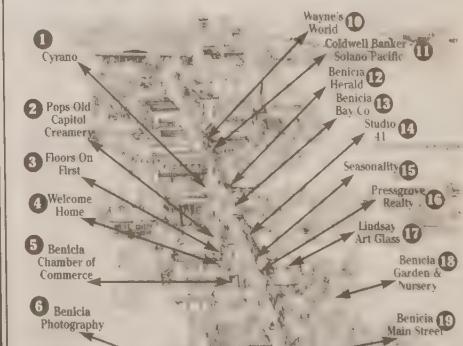
Calendar

FROM PAGE C8

Berkeley's Women's Daytime Drop-In Center needs off-site volunteers to help with mailings, fund-raising events, and holiday programs. Training is provided for all volunteers who can devote three-and-a-half hours a week to working at the Center. Other on-site opportunities include answering phones and performing administrative functions. Those wishing to volunteer should call 466-5663 or 548-6933.

Leah McIntosh Senior Outreach Services Community Volunteers for the Elderly, 402 Harbour Way, Ste. 105, in Richmond, needs Senior Errand and Escort Volunteers. During the winter months volunteer drivers are especially needed. Volunteer Drivers escort seniors to and from medical appointments. Training is provided. Call 237-7887 for additional information.

The Alameda County Court Appointed Special Advocate Program is currently accepting volunteer applications for Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). CASA volunteers work with the court to advocate the best interest of abused/neglected children in the Alameda County System. To receive an application and information call 268-7297. No previous experience is required. Volunteers for teens, ages 14 and up urgently needed.



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Benicia Main Street

For more information call 707-745-9791

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HILLS NEWSPAPERS

Events

FROM PAGE C9

3 Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m.

■ "Moons of the Solar System," through Sept. 3. Take a tour of the fascinating worlds that orbit Earth and other planets out to the edge of the Solar System. Saturday and Sunday, 2:15 p.m.

■ "Constellations Tonight," ongoing. Using a simple star map, learn to identify the most prominent constellations for the season in the planetarium sky. Daily, 3:30 p.m.

\$2 plus museum admission of \$6 general; \$4 students, seniors, disabled and youths aged 7 to 18; children under the age of 6 are not admitted. Daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Lawrence Hall of Science, University of California, Centennial Drive, Berkeley. (510) 642-5132 or www.lhs.berkeley.edu

Oakland Historic Downtown Walking Tour —

■ "First Tuesday Tour," Sept. 5. Visit City Hall and learn about its restora-

tion. The tour also visits Frank H. Ogawa Plaza and city administration buildings. Meet at the front steps of City Hall, 1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza.

SUMMER DOWNTOWN WALKING TOURS — through October. The tours cover downtown Oakland and its historic waterfront. All tours begin promptly at 10 a.m. and last about an hour and an hour and a half.

■ Preservation Park, Sept. 2. Preservation Park is a group of Victorian homes which replicate an authentic neighborhood of the 1870s. The homes have been restored and are used for offices and businesses. Other sites include the First Unitarian Church, Greene Library, and the Parade home and gardens. Reservations encouraged. Meet at the park entrance, 13th and Martin Luther King Jr. Way.

■ Downtown Historic District, Sept. 6. This tour highlights the newly designated historic district which includes the Tribune Tower, the Beaux Arts style Broadway Building at the pivotal corner of 14th Street and Broadway and other early 20th century commercial landmarks. Meet at City Hall.

Hall front steps, One Frank H. Ogawa Plaza at 14th Street.

■ City Center, Sept. 9. Turn-of-the-century landmarks alongside modern highrises are seen in this tour. Explore the upbeat style of the modern Center Square. Reservations encouraged. Meet at the City Hall front entrance, 1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza at 14th Street.

Free. Call for reservations. Oakland (510) 238-3234

Oakland Zoo —

■ African Savanna, ongoing. This zoo territory consists of two huge mixed animal aviaries and 11 African Savanna exhibits. See the meerkat family, hyenas, green monkeys and even a savanna monitor.

■ Visit the Mahai Pa Tembo (Place of the Elephant) to see African lions, giraffes, chimpanzees and more than 330 other animals from around the world who live in this Oakland hills park. The zoo includes a Children's Petting Zoo, the Skyride, a miniature train, a carousel, picnic grounds and a gift shop.

■ "Simba Pori," Swahili for "Lion

Country," is a spacious 1.5-acre habitat offering both a savanna and woodland setting for two adult African lions and four young lions.

■ "Footprints from the Past," is an anthropology exhibit showcasing 4 million years of human evolution and an actual "footpath" of the first hominids to emerge from the African savanna.

■ "Sun Bear Exhibit." See the state-of-the-art space the zoo has developed for its two sun bears. The bears' home is designed to challenge the bears mentally as well as physically, forcing them to forage for food as much as they would do in the wild. The naturalistic habitat is over an acre in size and includes mulch pits for exploration, climbing structures, nesting structures, a large pond and roiling machines.

■ The Siamese Island Exhibit, ongoing. The island is a state-of-the-art, barrier-free exhibit that emulates the gibbons' native tropical rain forest habitat.

\$6.50 general; \$3.50 seniors and children age 2 to 14; free children under age 2; \$3 parking fee. Daily, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Knowland Park, 9777 Golf

Links Road exit off Interstate Highway 580, Oakland. (510) 632-9525 or www.oaklandzoo.org

Tilden Regional Park

■ "Sirena Recorder Ensemble," Sept. 3, 2 p.m. A concert of music from the Renaissance period to the present day.

■ "Old-Fashioned Campfire," Sept. 3, 5 p.m. Bring food to cook over a campfire and enjoy songs and stories. Meet at EEC

■ "Labor Day Dr Pepper Hikes," Sept. 4, 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. An old-fashioned nature exploration with new-fangled microscopes.

■ "Jewel Lake Life," Sept. 5, 6:30 p.m. Hike to Jewel Lake. Meet at the EEC

■ "Hog Heaven," Sept. 10, 9:30 a.m. Visit and learn about the pigs on the farm.

BOTANIC GARDEN —

■ Guided docent tours of the gardens. Call ahead for times and to confirm tour is on for the day. Most Saturdays and Sundays, 2 p.m. Free. (510) 841-8732

LAKE ANZA —

■ "Intro to Flyfishing," Sept. 10, 7 a.m.

to 2 p.m. Three hours of class instruction and three hours lake to practice casting with a flyfishing instructor. For ages 12 and older. Registration required to \$66. (510) 636-1684. Free unless noted otherwise. Tilden Regional Park, 1400 Tilden Regional Park, Berkeley. (510) 525-2233

UC Berkeley Botanical Garden, ongoing. The gardens have a variety of exotic and native plants.

■ "Botanical Garden Tours," Sept. 1, Saturday and Sunday, 1:30 p.m. Meet at the Tour Orientation Center for a free docent tour.

\$3 general; \$2 seniors, \$1 children free on Thursday. Through Labor Day, Sept. 4: daily, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Botanical Garden, Centennial Drive, behind Memorial Stadium, Berkeley. (510) 643-2759. www.berkeley.edu/gardens

Barnes And Noble, Oakland. See EVENTS, Page C14

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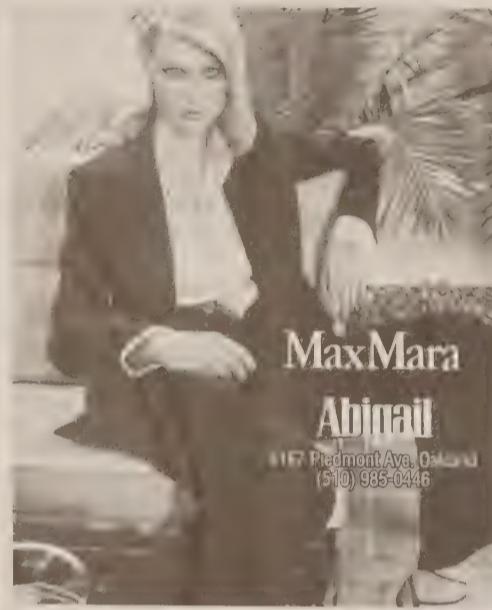
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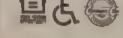
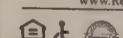
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**BALLOT #1 BEST SHOPPING AND SERVICES**

East Bay's BEST 2000

**Win a romantic
2-night stay in
Carmel/Monterey!
And, qualify for
the grand prize.**

Give us your picks for the best of everything and you could win!

Here's the East Bay's own version of the people's choice awards. And YOU'RE on the judging panel!

The favorites in each category will be revealed in the exciting **East Bay's Best** publication coming October 13. Complete this ballot by writing in your selections and mailing it to us by **September 14**. One lucky winner will be randomly selected to be our guest for a romantic 2-night getaway in Carmel/Monterey including dinner for two. Plus all entries qualify for the grand prize - a trip for two to Las Vegas. Don't miss out on this fabulous chance for free fun!

One entry per person. One ballot per envelope. Must be 18 years or older to win. No facsimile accepted. Additional official ballot forms available at your local Contra Costa Newspapers and Hills Newspapers offices and participating merchants. Judges decision is final. Entrants agree to release Contra Costa Newspapers and Hills Newspapers from any liability with regard to this contest or use of prizes. Applicable taxes are the responsibility of the winners. Employees of Contra Costa Newspapers, Hills Newspapers and their immediate families are not eligible to participate in the drawings. Winners will be notified October 25, 2000. Prize may not be exchanged for cash or another prize. All ballot entries received will be eligible for the grand prize: a two night stay in Las Vegas at the Bellagio Resort for two including airfare, dinner, and a show.

Entry must be received by Thursday, September 14 by 5:00 p.m. Postmark has no bearing on whether the deadline is met.

Fill out ballot below or vote online at www.contracostatimes.com

Shopping & Services Ballot (This ballot is for the areas of Oakland, Berkeley, Piedmont, Albany and El Cerrito.)

- Best Active Adult Community _____
- Best Living On The Links _____
- Best Place For Home Loans _____
- Best New Home Community _____
- Best Real Estate Company _____
- Best Source For Old Treasures _____
- Best Deals On wheels _____
- Best Place For Fixing Your Buggy _____
- Best Boat Dealer _____
- Best Motorcycle Dealer _____
- Best RV Dealer _____
- Best Bicycle Store _____
- Best Place To Browse Through Books _____
- Best Bridal/Formal Wear _____
- Best Kids', Women's, Men's Clothing Store _____
- Most Useful Website _____
- Best Phone On-The-Go _____
- Best Farmers Market _____
- Best Buy On Beautiful Blooms _____
- Best Furniture/Home Decor/Bed & Bath _____
- Best Sporting Gear Store _____
- Most Helpful Home Improvement/Hardware Store _____
- Most Knowledgeable Nursery _____
- Best Jeweler _____
- Best Place To Do Your Shopping _____
- Best Shop For Recorded Sounds _____
- Best Specialty Store _____
- Best Computer Store _____
- Best Consignment Store _____
- Best Bank/Financial Institution _____
- Best Legal Beagle _____
- Best Health Care Provider _____
- Best Place To Pamper The Pooch _____
- Best Place To Pamper Yourself _____
- Best Travel Agency _____
- Best Customer Service _____
- Best Local Hero _____
- Best Downtown _____

Get moving! Entries must be received by Thursday, September 14, 2000, by 5:00 p.m.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ Zip _____
Daytime Telephone _____

Send your completed ballot to: East Bay's Best, P.O. Box 4850, Walnut Creek, CA 94596-0850

Look for Ballot #2 on September 6, and your chance to win a fabulous Wine Country weekend.

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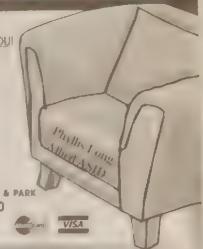
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BALLOT #2 BEST FUN AND ENTERTAINMENT

East Bay's BEST 2000

Give us your picks for the best of everything and you could win!

Here's the East Bay's own version of the people's choice awards. And YOU'RE on the judging panel!

The favorites in each category will be revealed in the exciting **East Bay's Best** publication coming October 25. Complete this ballot by writing in your selections and mailing it to us by **September 14**. One lucky winner will be randomly selected to be our guest for a romantic 2-night getaway in the Wine Country including dinner for two. Plus all entries qualify for the grand prize - a trip for two to Las Vegas. Don't miss out on this fabulous chance for free fun!

Fill out ballot below or vote online at www.contracostatimes.com

Fun & Entertainment Ballot (This ballot is for the areas of Oakland, Berkeley, Piedmont, Albany and El Cerrito.)

- Best Bagels _____
- Best Bakery _____
- Best Breakfast _____
- Best Place To Sample A Microbrew _____
- Best Chinese Food _____
- Best Place For Lingering Over A Latte _____
- Best Deli _____
- Most Decadent Desserts _____
- Best French Cuisine _____
- Best Italian Cuisine _____
- Best Japanese/Sushi Cuisine _____
- Best Mexican Cuisine _____
- Best Pizza _____
- Best Restaurant For Kids _____
- Best Seafood _____
- Best Specials For Savvy Seniors _____
- Most Lavish Sunday Brunch _____
- Best Wining With Your Dining _____
- Best Hamburger _____
- Best Place To Tee Off _____
- Best Place To Work Up A Sweat _____
- Best Outdoor Activity _____
- Best Place To Shoot Billiards _____
- Best Swimming Hole _____
- Best Tennis Court _____
- Best Theatre Troupe _____
- Best Place To Hang With The Family _____
- Best Cinema Palace _____
- Best Club For Listening And Dancing _____
- Best Place To Admire Art _____
- Best East Bay Getaway _____
- Best Community Celebration _____
- Most Professional Wait Person _____
- Most Sympathetic Bartender _____

Get moving! Entries must be received by Thursday, September 14, 2000, by 5:00 p.m.

Name _____
 Address _____
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Send your completed ballot to: East Bay's Best, P.O. Box 4850, Walnut Creek, CA 94596-0850

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HILL-7

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10 am - 4 pm

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A wine tasting event benefiting the Friends of Montclair Park & Recreation

All attending wineries have East Bay connections

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Montclair Park (by the duck pond)

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Events

FROM PAGE C10

"Kids Story Times," ongoing. Stories will be read in the Children's book area. Free. Thursday, 4 p.m.; Sunday, 1 p.m. 98 Broadway, Jack London Square, Oakland. (510) 272-0120.

Children's Fairyland USA — A fairy tale theme park featuring more than 30 colorful fantasy sets. Designed especially for children age 10 and under, there are gentle rides, a train, the "Peter Rabbit Village," puppet shows, storytelling and lots of slides and animals.

■ "Play Island," ongoing. A multi-level treehouse play area inspired by the novel "Swiss Family Robinson."

■ SPECIAL EVENT — "Festival of Fairyland," through September. In celebration of the park turning 50 every weekend will be dedicated to something new:

■ "Mother Goose Tribute," Sept. 2 and Sept. 3. Mother Goose reads stories with Goldilocks and the Cat and the Fiddle.

■ "Knights, Dragons, and Princesses," Sept. 9 and Sept. 10. Arrived costumed and join in the parade. \$5 general includes unlimited rides, special shows, guest entertainers and puppet shows; free children under age 1. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Grand and Bellevue Avenues, Oakland. (510) 452-2259 or (510) 238-6878.

Oakland Public Library — GOLDEN GATE BRANCH —

■ "Toddler Lapsit," third and fourth Saturday, 10:30 a.m. Time for stories, songs, rhymes, fingerplays and more. For age 6 months to 3 1/2 and their parents or caregivers. 5433 San Pablo Ave. (temporary location). (510) 597-5023

MONTCLAIR BRANCH — ■ "Preschool Storytime," Wednesday, 10:30 a.m.; ■ "Toddler Storytime," Wednesday, 11:30 a.m. 1687 Mountain Blvd. (510) 482-7810. Free. Oakland. (510) 238-3134.

Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra — Nicholas McGegan conducting, Sept. 9 and Sept. 10. A performance of Handel's opera-oratorio "Semele." \$32 to \$46. Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 7 p.m. First Congregational Church, Dana Street and Duran Avenue, Berkeley. (415) 392-4400 or www.philharmonia.org

St. Mark's Episcopal Church — Organist Alexei Parshin, Sept. 10, 6 p.m. A performance of works by Bach, Berezovsky, Liszt and Widor. Donation: 2300 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. (510) 845-0888.

Ashkenaz — ■ Strictly Roots, Sept. 1, 9:30 p.m. \$11. ■ Voz Do Brazil, Sept. 2, 9:30 p.m. \$11. ■ Don Carlos and Reggae Angels, Sept. 3, 9 p.m. \$11. ■ Blackfire, Sept. 5, 9 p.m. \$8. ■ Poulard-Thompson Band, Sept. 6, 9 p.m. ■ Grateful Dead DJ Nite with Digital Dave, Sept. 7, 10 p.m. \$5. ■ Fantcha, Sept. 8, 9:30 p.m. \$11. ■ Tom Rigney and Flambeau, Sept. 9,

9 p.m. \$11. ■ Georges Lannam Ensemble, Sept. 10, 8 p.m. \$10. For ages 13-17 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. (510) 525-5099 or www.ashkenaz.com

Blakes — ■ Most Chill Slackmob, Radioactive, Sept. 2, \$6. ■ "First Labor Day Celebration," Sept. 3. Featuring DJs Delon, Yamon, Add 1, Scott Edmonds. \$5. ■ The Blue Monday Jam featuring The Steve Gannon Band, Sept. 4 \$3

■ Everything, Bar Bee Killed Kent, Sept. 5, \$3. ■ "Third World" with UC Buu, DJ Add, Curious, Sept. 6, \$5. ■ Quimombo, Sept. 7, \$4. ■ Cool Water Canyon, Indian Summer, Sept. 8, \$7. ■ Nobody From Ipanema, Sept. 9, \$7. ■ John Sinclair with The Blues Scholars, Sept. 10, \$8

For age 18 and older. Music at 9:30 p.m. 2367 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. (510) 848-0886

Cato's Ale House — ■ Rhythm Doctors, Sept. 2. ■ Songwriter Night, Sept. 3. ■ Dave Wells Trio, Sept. 6. ■ U Franklin, Sept. 9. ■ Big Boys, Sept. 10.

Shows start at 6 p.m. 3691 Piedmont Ave., Oakland. (510) 655-3349.

City Center Summer Concert Series — through Sept. 28.

■ Sept. 7: Brenda Boykin and Home Cooking. ■ Sept. 14: Rhythmix. ■ Sept. 21: Strictly Tango. ■ Sept. 28: Khalil Shaheed and The

Open Mind Ensemble. Free. Music at 5 p.m. City Center Plaza, Broadway between 12th and 14th Streets, Oakland. (510) 628-8490 or www.oaklandcitycenter.com

City Sounds — through Sept. 27. ■ Sept. 6: Samba Ngó and Nogoma Players. ■ Sept. 13: The Delta Wires. ■ Sept. 20: DanceConcert presented by Dance-A-Vision Entertainment. ■ Sept. 27: Ray Obiedo and Urban Latin Jazz Project.

Free. Music at noon. Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland City Hall. (510) 444-9222

Concerts At The Cove — through September. The West Alameda Business Association sponsors a series of Friday evening concerts on the second Friday of the month.

Tee Fee, Sept. 8, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Free. Crab Cove, Crown Memorial State Beach, 1252 McKay Ave., Alameda. (888) 291-9222

Freight And Salvage — ■ Odetta, Sept. 1, \$16.50 to \$17.50.

■ Tim O'Brien and the Crossing, Sept. 2, \$16.50 to \$17.50. ■ Columna B., Sept. 8, 8:30 p.m. \$12

■ Song of Unity: La Pena Mural in Song, Sept. 9, 8 p.m. and Sept. 10, 7 p.m. \$10

3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. (510) 849-2568 or www.lapena.org

Mr. E's Spotlight on the Square — ■ Daria, Sept. 1, 9 p.m. \$12.

■ Mystique, Sept. 2, 9 p.m. \$12

■ La Palabra, Sept. 8 and Sept. 9, 9 p.m. \$15

2203 Manner Square Loop, Alameda. (510) 523-8368 or www.escovedo.com

The Greek Theatre — Ben Harper and The Innocent Criminals, Maceo Parker, Sept. 8, 7 p.m. \$30

Hearst Avenue and Gayley Road, Berkeley. (510) 444-TIX.

Henry J. Kaiser Convention Center

Daniela Mercury, Sept. 8, 8 p.m. \$35 10 10th St., Oakland. (510) 534-6348, (510) 762-BASS.

Kimball's East —

■ Charles Wright and 103 St. band, through Sept. 2.

■ Stylistics, Sept. 7 through Sept. 9.

■ Live Jazz every Tuesday night, 8 p.m.

Music at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 5800 Shellmound St., Emeryville. (510) 658-2555 or (510) 762-BASS or www.kimballs.com

La Pena Cultural Center —

■ Street Sounds, Sept. 1, 8 p.m. \$12

■ Paoli Mejia and Javier Quiendo, Sept. 2, 1 p.m. \$15

■ Charanga Tumbao y Cuerdas and Son Ire, Sept. 2, 9 p.m. \$12

■ Columna B., Sept. 8, 8:30 p.m. \$12

■ Song of Unity: La Pena Mural in Song, Sept. 9, 8 p.m. and Sept. 10, 7 p.m. \$10

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2203 Manner Square Loop, Alameda. (510) 523-8368 or www.escovedo.com

924 Gilman St. —

■ Cattle Press, No Less, Kalki Ludica, Sept. 2

■ Black Cat Music, Summerless I.D., U.V.R., The Pattern

■ Fall Silent, Holier Than Thou Scholastic Death, Sept. 9

\$5. Music at 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 924 Gilman St., Berkeley. (510) 525-9926

Port Lite —

■ Salem Lights, Semi Automat, Sept. 1

■ D.A.C. She, Advance Order for Teens, Sept. 2

■ Anderson, San Geronimo Time Angels, Sept. 8

■ Don's Neighbors, Dr. Evans, Learned Hand, Sept. 9

\$3. For age 21 and older. 229 8th St., Oakland. (510) 451-0600 or www.portlite.net

The Starry Plough Pub

■ Mumble and Peg, Schloss \$5

■ Buffalo Roam, Sept. 2, \$5

■ Noche de Flamenco with Cortes, Sept. 6, \$10

■ Darling Freakhead, Moe! Sept. 7, \$4

■ Glitter Mini 9 Red Planet Grrps, Sept. 8, \$6

■ Mongo-Lounge, 1-900-THE-HOUSE, Sept. 9, \$6

For age 21 and over. Wednesday, 8 p.m.; Thursday, 9:30 p.m.; Friday, 9:45 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 3101 Shattuck, Berkeley. (510) 841-2082

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16 East Bay artists will display their work in the Alice Arts Center Arts Exhibition Series. The series will begin September 1, 2000 and runs through February 28, 2001. A total of six exhibitions will rotate monthly with an Opening Reception on the first Friday of each month. For more information on the series or participating artists call Christin Hablewitz 510.238.4948. For information on the Alice Arts Center call Damali Cruz 510.238.7221.

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Auto Plus

The Montclarion, The Piedmonter, The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Alameda Journal

September 1, 2000

Section D

Get Off the Road Acura's new MDX sport utility vehicle [D3]

Classic Classics College girl meets 1960 Oldsmobile — a love story [D4]

Auto Directory Best places to go to shop for new cars [D5]

Lexus' new performance sport sedan: IS 300

Keane on Wheels

By Connie Keane

Running for performance-oriented enthusiasts, Lexus adds the IS 300 compact sport sedan to its pedigreed luxury line. Its mission: to conquer territory occupied by European icons.

Specifically, BMW 3 Series and Audi 4 quattro are the targets for which Lexus runs the IS 300; a rookie taking on two well-established, seasoned players. I'm suggesting the new Lexus is like a high school athlete thrown into the Ivy League college-division game. However, my evaluation of the IS 300 is that there is room to grow. (Luck, though, is smiling on this freshman, for the IS already appears to have its legions of fans.)

First of all, if you want to hit the ground running against the 3 and the 4, you have to go in with a manual transmission. The IS 300 doesn't have one. The game plan at Lexus is to bring in the manual shifter for the 2002 model year, in betting the auto maker wants to get the transmission strategy right on this rear-wheel-drive sedan. It's not just enough to enter the market with a five-speed manual — it has to be among the elite athletes of manuals. Having driven several 3 Series and 5 Series sedans and wagons, I can confidently report nothing operates more beautifully than a BMW manual transmission.

See KEANE, Page D2



REAR-WHEEL DRIVE and no manual transmission? Lexus produces a vehicle with room to grow.

Drive, She Said

By Denise McCluggage

Car owners smarten up after doing dumb things

Do you like lists? Most people do, and being an obliging sort, I herewith offer two lists. One is three dumb things you can do in and about a car, particularly in summer, and the other is four smart things. The dumb things:

1. You decide to leave your jacket in the car, and rather than leave anything visible, you pop the trunk. The last thing you do is neatly place your jacket in it. Then as the trunk lid reaches that irreversible moment on its way down, you realize the car keys are in the jacket pocket.

See DRIVE, Page D2

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Check vacuum lines for recurring stalling problems

Dear Doctor: I own a 1988 Honda Accord with 173,000 miles. It has been a good car over the years. I had the transmission replaced last year. My problem is I have to let the engine run for five minutes whether it is hot or cold, or else it will stall out when I put it in gear. What do you suggest? Tamara

Dear Doctor: You did not mention the model you own. The LX is fuel-injected, while the EX and DX have a carburetor.

The problem is either a lean fuel condition, or the transmission is putting too much drag on the engine, causing the stalling condition.

You need to take the car into a shop and let the technician remove the air filter assembly and check for any loose vacuum lines. Even a partly open EGR valve can cause this problem.

Dear Doctor: I am trying to find a 160-degree thermostat for my 1994 Ford Ranger 4.0-liter V6 engine. Can you help? Robert

Dear Robert: Check with all the local auto parts stores in your area, as well as speed shops.

I came up with 160-degree Beck Arnley #143-5689. There is also a 180-degree available.

Dear Doctor: I own a 1982 Lincoln Mark VII with air suspension. The suspension is worn out and very costly to replace. I want to know if there is any way to convert the air suspension over to a conventional system. Al

Dear Al: Yes, there is a company that sells a conversion to no-air ride for some Lincoln models.

I have installed this conversion on one Mark model.

The amount of labor and price of the suspension to swap over equates to that of replacing the air bag suspension on your car.

I would stay with the original air system.

Dear Doctor: I inherited my mother-in-law's 1980 Chevrolet Monte Carlo V6 with 30,700 miles.

The car has not been driven in the last two years. The engine has a rough idle and lacks power. I took it to a local tune-up shop.

The technician pulled out the plugs and said one was soaked with oil. He said a piston ring must be broken or stuck, causing oil to foul the spark plug.

The estimate of repair is \$2,500 to rebuild the engine. How could this problem occur on an engine with such low mileage? Jerome

Dear Jerome: This is a common problem with engines that are not run for long periods with proper storage procedures.

The piston rings will gum up and stick, and the cylinder walls will sometimes rust up from moisture.

Seasonal watercraft, outdoor equipment and classic cars need to be winterized before putting them

away for their six-month rest.

Any good parts or marine store has the proper engine-fogging products for long-time protection.

Dear Doctor: I own a 1987 Buick Century with 103,000 miles, and it has served me well over the years.

I am going to be 65 years old soon and would like to buy a replacement car. My thoughts are another Century.

What would be a good year from 1995 or newer? Gerry

Dear Gerry: Buy a two-year-old or newer Century. There are many services on the Internet to find car pricing.

In some cases, model year-end closeouts could be a great deal. There are incentives and rebates on closeout models.

Check with a couple of dealers for pricing. If you are not trading in the 1987, you could even price-shop over the phone.

Dear Doctor: We own a 1994 Lincoln Continental with 65,000 miles. At 51,000 miles, and then again at 61,000 miles, the head gaskets failed.

Lincoln has paid for the repair and extended the warranty till year's end.

How can I help prevent this failure in the future? Milton

Dear Milton: This 3.8-liter V6 engine has had multiple head gasket and head failures.

Ford Motor Company has helped a small percentage of owners like you. I would like to see Ford take care of the owners of all these problem engines.

The only thing you can do to eliminate future cylinder head gasket problems is to trade the car in for another model.

If you go back to the Lincoln dealer, have them ask Ford for some financial assistance.

Dear Doctor: I own a 1996 GMC Sonoma pickup 4.3-liter Vortec engine with 60,000 miles.

Recently, it developed what I call a "spark knock." I switched from 87-89 octane gasoline. After several fill-ups the noise is still present. My next step is 93 octane.

The truck has never had a lot of power, even though it is the Vortec V6. What are your thoughts? Richard

Dear Richard: The Vortec V6 should have plenty of power. It should also run fine on 87 octane. Your truck is a 1996 model with On-Board diagnostics II.

This is a very fast and efficient computer. I would have the shop scan the computer and view all the sensors. A gas ping or knock on your truck is not normal.

There could be a small piece of carbon buildup in the combustion chamber, a lazy thermostat, or a weak cooling fan.

Dear Doctor: We own a 1990 Oldsmobile Cutlass Ciera 3.3-liter

Ask the Auto Doc

By Junior Damato

V6 that did not pass our state emission test. It failed for high NOX. What is the problem? Harry

Dear Harry: High NOX levels are caused from high-combustion temperatures. Here are some suggestions:

1) Check for proper engine temperature and cooling fan operation

Did the shop have an electric fan blowing in front of the car?

Some engines have EGR valves that need to be checked along with the passageways.

2) Using the 93-octane gas will sometimes lower the NOX level.

3) Lastly, make certain that the catalytic converter is working properly.

Dear Doctor: I own a 1997 Chevrolet Lumina LS with the small V6 that just hit 60,000 miles.

At what mileage does the timing belt have to be changed?

I have looked in my owner's manual without success. Bill

Dear Bill: Your car, like many other American V6s, does not have a timing belt or gears that need replacement. That is one good thing we got from GM.

Dear Doctor: I'm planning to buy a 1996 or 1997 full-size pickup half-ton, four-wheel drive extended cab with an 8-foot bed.

Which truck would you recommend? Would it be gas or diesel? I drive 12,000 to 15,000 miles a year.

Rich

Dear Rich: Both Ford and GM offer a split front-axle shaft. Dodge half-ton, full-size trucks have a straight front axle.

This may be a bit more tough and it also hurts the ride. I would go with whichever truck you liked the best.

Dear Doctor: I own a 1992 Buick Century that has a problem with the left front power window. It sometimes does not work.

I need to know how to get the door panel off.

There are no instructions for this procedure in the owner's manual or shop books. Cas

Dear Cas: The door panels are usually held on with a few screws and plastic fasteners.

You need to look for all the small plastic clips that remove the window switch.

If you do not want to remove the panel yourself, go to a local body shop to have the panel removed.

There are a couple of small fork-like tools used to remove the plastic clips.

Send questions to: Auto Doctor, 3 Court Circle, Lakeville, MA 02347

Car or truck, Chrysler's PT Cruiser is a smile maker

Even before Chrysler's PT Cruiser went on sale, a fan club sprang up in Washington state. That club now has 4,000 members nationally and is growing rapidly, fueled by enthusiastic e-mail messages of PT fans spreading the word.

It's not hard to see why the PT is so popular. Of the dozens of cars I drive annually, the Cruiser is the one that has evoked the most interest of passersby. Almost every place I went with the PT, strangers would approach for a closer look and ask questions about what I thought of it. That's easy to answer: the Cruiser is really a fun car to look at and to drive. My interrogators seemed to feel the same way, despite the fact they haven't driven one.

Many people must agree. About 32,000 of the vehicles with a retro design that reminds many persons of a scaled-down London taxi have been sold since late March through July 31. That figure is limited by production capacity. Chrysler's factory in Toluca, Mexico, is expected to build 120,000 to 140,000 Cruisers by year's end, so you will see many more on the road. Next year, Toluca is scheduled to build at least 180,000 PT Cruisers.

Even though the football season is in its early stages, the PT Cruiser is just about anything you want a small vehicle to be. It has an enormously roomy interior for a vehicle its size. At least six PTs have been converted into taxis and are in service in Las Vegas and San Francisco. The interior also has great flexibility. In the Limited version, you can fold down both front and rear seats, creating a mini-camper for vacation trips, or a place to carry a large amount of cargo.

Chrysler engineers are working on a new generation of Cruisers right now. Officially, their designers won't comment on the products. But neither do they hide them out. Also expected to appear in future years is a Cruiser pickup and perhaps a pickup.

Chrysler may have a sedan on its hands and be forced to search for more manufacturing capacity to meet demand for the Cruiser. Even a recent disappointing rating in a government crash test does not seem to have decreased demand for the PT. The automaker does not take issue with the test, but notes that the missed scoring a satisfactory rating.

Well, what is it? The Cruiser is just about anything you want a small vehicle to be. It has an enormously roomy interior for a vehicle its size. At least six PTs have been converted into taxis and are in service in Las Vegas and San Francisco. The interior also has great flexibility. In the Limited version, you can fold down both front and rear seats, creating a mini-camper for vacation trips, or a place to carry a large amount of cargo.

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Acura introduces 2001 MDX sport utility vehicle

MDX looks it, too. There's a sturdy stance; and the impression of a small metallic horn at the center of MDX's sharply chiseled front end.

MDX is powered by a gutsy 3.5-liter V6 engine and a five-speed automatic transmission. With 240 horses and 245 pounds of torque, MDX boasts top-of-the-class acceleration among V6 competitors.

More impressively, with an all-aluminum engine that's smaller and lighter than the others, MDX also boasts top-of-the-line efficiency with EPA ratings of 17 mpg around 23 mpg highway. It's the first SUV to do so in all 50 states.

Inside, the MDX features all the standard extras expected of a luxury SUV, including leather seats, wood trim, heated front seats and a multi-function digital trip computer.

The second- and third-row seats easily split and fold flat into the floor in a variety of combinations. The interior can transform from a seven-passenger minibus to a cargo van.

With five-star safety ratings for all passengers in both front and side impact tests, MDX rolls out as one of the safest SUVs yet.

Advanced safety features include dual-stage front airbags that adjust deployment force according to the severity of impact, side airbags with passenger size and position sensors, a passenger compartment safety shell, and 4-wheel ABS.

Although pricing isn't currently set, MDX won't be weighed down with a hefty tag. Expect MDX to begin near \$35,000 and top out around \$39,000 — about the same as Lexus RX300 and thousands less than Mercedes-Benz.

Who would have thought a rhino could be such an elegant creature? The new 2001 Acura MDX has raced ahead of the pack among compact luxury SUVs. But check it out for yourself.



MOTOR MATTERS
ACURA
2001 MDX,
designed
around the
essential
rhinoceros.

Spare Parts

Real life safety

In the development of safer cars, Saab crashes its vehicles to further occupant safety standards. Investigations have shown the need for a head-restraint system that reduces the risk of long-term whiplash injuries.

Saab became the world's first carmaker to provide an active head restraint for front seat occupants in 1998.

Accident studies have resulted in a special design of the door lock in the Saab 9-3 and 9-5.

The center section of the post

is very rigid to help prevent intrusion into the car's interior cabin.

All Saab models are also equipped with side airbags to protect the heads and chests of the occupants.

Ford Focus rated

Consumer Reports tested four small sedans for the September issue and found one in the under-\$20,000 class that breaks new ground — the Ford Focus.

In tests, the Focus achieved an "excellent" overall score due

to its roomy interior and handling.

The Focus competed against the Nissan Sentra, Dodge Neon and Saturn SL2.

20 years of Quattro

Audi's all-wheel drive system, Quattro, first debuted at the 1980 Geneva Motor Show.

Now in its fourth generation, the permanent all-wheel drive system is featured on about one-third of all Audi's rolling off the production line.

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Second-year college girl falls for big '60 Oldsmobile

By the time Elaina Moy was a university sophomore on the east coast in 1992, she was ready for her first car.

She decided on an older car — perhaps an antique, preferably a muscle car.

With those parameters in mind, she went shopping.

Several cars proved to be disappointments.

Then her father, Mike Moy, told his daughter about a car one of his

colleagues was selling.

The whole family took a ride to investigate a 1960 Oldsmobile Dynamic 88 four-door Celebrity sedan.

Of the 17 models offered by Oldsmobile in 1960, it was the best-selling one. A total of 76,377 such models were built.

Although it wasn't the small-bodied, huge-engined muscle car she was looking for, it nevertheless caught her attention.

It was B-I-G. The 4,091-pound

Oldsmobile was well over 18 feet long and rode on a 122-inch wheelbase.

The 371-cubic-inch V8 produced 240 horsepower to move the car with ease.

The seller had bought it from the original owner, a local physician, and the odometer registered a mere 47,000 miles (about 1,500 miles a year).

The price was right, the car was right and the time was right.

Elaina paid the man and directly faced the next challenge: how to get the car to her parent's home.

"I was scared the first time I drove it," Elaina recalls.

The speedometer wasn't working properly, but her father had come prepared with a pair of CB radios.

"There we were...comparing speedometer readings via radio," says Miss Moy.

Since then, she has had the 120

mph Safety Spectrum speedometer repaired.

From zero it starts out green, and then, as speed increases, the gauge turns orange.

As the far right side of the speedometer approaches, the indicator becomes red.

Upon graduating, Moy made plans to move to San Francisco for a graduation present to herself.

She drove cross-country in 1995 with her four-window air conditioning wide open.

The Oldsmobile has a pair of under-dash air vents to assist in cooling the occupants.

On total highway cruising, the 60 Oldsmobile delivers up to 20 mpg. Around town, Moy reports single-digit mileage figures.

The capacity of the fuel tank — which is filled through the port behind the rear license plate — is 20 gallons.

While in San Francisco, Moy discovered several roundabout routes to frequently visited destinations throughout the city in order to avoid the steepest of the steep hills.

"It might have taken me a little longer," she explains, "but it was easier on the transmission."

While in California, Moy noticed the original blue-over-white paint beginning to show its age.

Oldsmobile offered 15 colors in 1960, and any combination of two tones was possible. Moy had the car repainted as it was originally.

In 1999, Moy climbed behind the deep-dish, two-spoke steering wheel and thundered back across the continent to the Washington D.C. area.

Moy's Oldsmobile came from the factory equipped with power steering, power brakes and a radio.

Abiding by an edict delivered by

Classic Classics

By Vern Parker

her mother the day she bought car, Moy had front seat belts installed.

Over the years, Moy has had her brake system rebuilt and a mission tended to.

"I can fix what's gone with this car," she explains.

Within a couple years, she to make a coast-to-coast trek.

The odometer is approaching 80,000 miles, and she says it will be nearing 100,000 by the time she is ready to drive to California.

Before that trip, she plans to have the sturdy V8 rebuilt.

She wants to be certain reliability, because she often drives her car out to remote areas.

When Elaina is camping, almost 7 feet wide, if bad sets in, Moy can move into the back seat.

From one end to the other, the huge Oldsmobile puts Moy comfortably at ease.

When behind the big steering wheel of this big car that intimidated her, Moy pro

can drive anything any

She hastens to add that she

no plans ever to sell her fi

If you have an interest in classic cars or buying vehicles, write to Vern Parker at 2221 Abbotsford Drive, 22818.



371-CUBIC-INCH V8 powers this 18-foot long Olds with 240 horses

Luminaries look to artist for a new direction in auto floor mat designs

By Jill Amadio

The trend towards curving rooflines and rounded corners on cars and trucks is literally finding itself underfoot — that is if you're lucky enough to have floor mats in your new vehicle.

Floor mats are probably the last frontier for automotive stylists, whose attitude towards fabrics is lamentably restrained, although Mercedes Design studio in Germany makes a grand effort. Buyers who fly to Stuttgart to pick out their new car's interior decor can choose from a variety of textures, colors and shapes.

If you wish the monochrome floors in your brand new S500 were just a tad more chic and not quite so, well, square in both senses of the word, maybe you should buy a Lamborghini next time. While you can find BMW, Porsche, Nissan, Dodge, and other manufacturers' floor mats on the Internet and in dealer showrooms, Lamborghini and Ferrari tap Keith Collins, a Los Angeles tapestry artist, to come up with toe-tick-

ling textured mats that dazzle even the most jaded of connoisseurs.

The popularity of customized floor mats is accelerating, according to Collins, because most vehicles have no floor mats or, at best, supply mats of poor quality. He's created everything from quilted leather and mink mats to elaborate silk ones for his clients.

Singer Michael Jackson decided only a royal crest, copied from England's Prince of Wales' own seal, was good enough for him, while basketball star Shaq O'Neal prefers a Superman logo. Magic Johnson ordered abstract graphics for his Navigator, and Snoop Doggy Dogg wanted doberman pawprints in black mouton fur woven into his mats. Movie star Nicolas Cage is into dragons for the back seat of his Rolls Royce. Eddie Murphy just wanted plain white sheepskin, and Sylvester Stallone was content with a gun design.

When a car company adds a new paint color, stylists must find matching or complementary fabrics. For Collins, it's a lot more complicated.

"Mercedes-Benz has the most un-

usual exterior color line right now," said Collins, "with names like Opal and Garnet. These are off-colors, unlike standard red, black and blue, so the designs I am creating for these cars reflect the geometric shapes of gemstones. Abstract art is hot, tremendously popular this year for handmade floor mats, with color splashes, swirls, triangles, and crazy-paving."

The artist's designs are influenced by the car's shape. Sport utes get boxy designs on their mats. One SUV owner ordered a towboat picture. For

the softer, more rounded Ferrari 550 Maranello, Collins designed a sophisticated but subtle mat with curved corners, while the more angular Mercedes-Benz models sent Collins to the drawing board with his T-squares. Not surprisingly, New Beetle owners are ordering mats imbedded with red wool ladybugs.

Among his most recognized automotive tapestries are the Rothman's Porsche championship model, Carroll Shelby's 427 Cobra, and several Ferraris for Enzo Ferrari. Other works hang in collections such as

the Old Timers Garage in Switzerland, Matsuda's collection in Japan, the Downington Museum in England, and the War family collection in Chicago.

With floor mats of every new vehicle model hanging in racks at his studio, Collins can design just about

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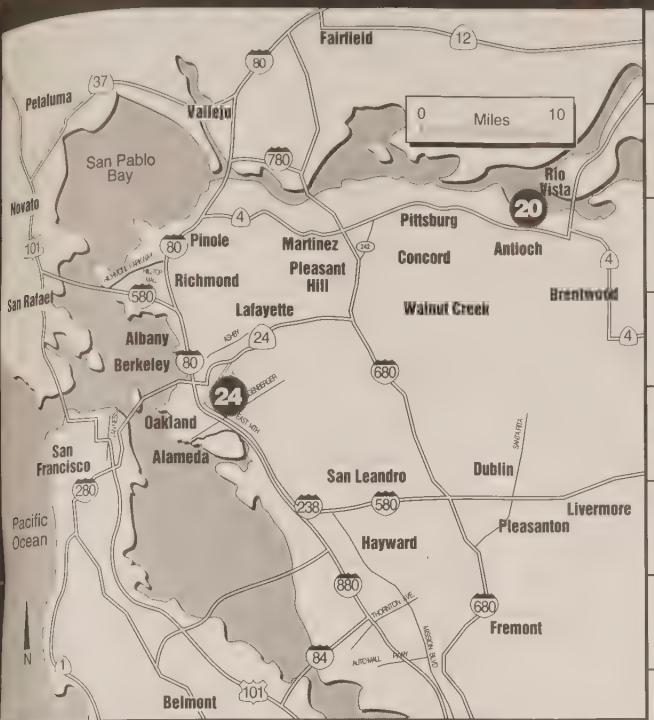
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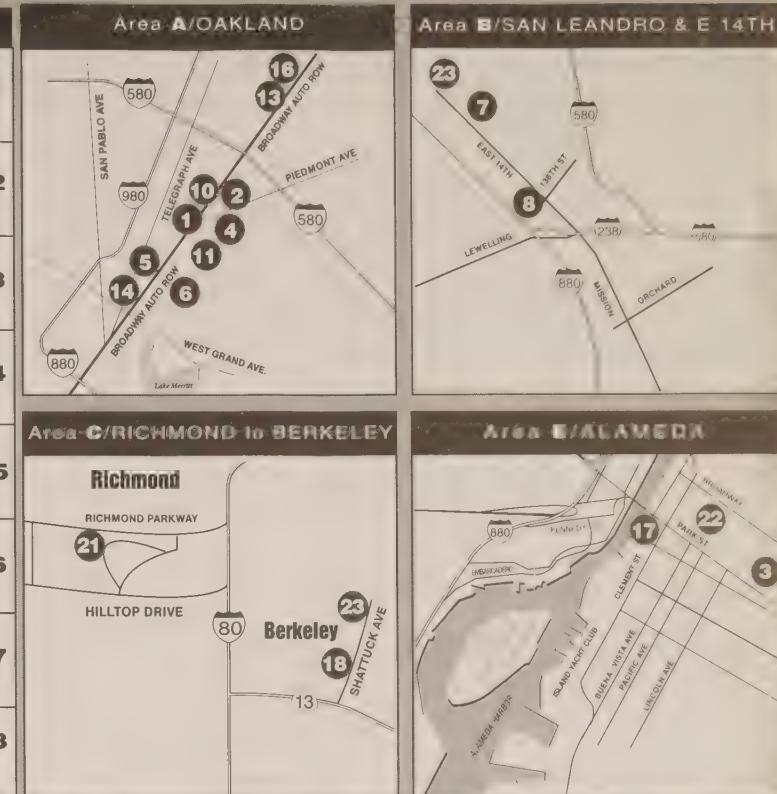
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Requires BA degree, CDP certification; 3-5 years experience in a hospital setting, knowledge of operating systems, and fiscal planning desired.

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Both positions also require knowledge of biohazardous spills, decontamination, control and computer based inventory controls and related documentation.

Excellent communication skills, as well as computer literacy.

For consideration, please call or send resume to: Hiltz, Mt. Diablo Medical Center, 2540 East St., Concord, CA 94520. E-mail: nancyp@mtdiablo.com or fax (925) 674-2439. Visit our website at <http://johnmuir-mdiablo.jobs.com>.

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P/T - Assistant to the Secretary to the President. To handle correspondence, file, etc. Word/Excel experience. Computer literate. Candidate should also possess strong interpersonal and communication skills. Have valid CDL. Hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. M-F. 12-hour shift assignment upon experience/worke...ed benefits. Request application to Diane or Helene 510-521-6200.

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Busy San Leandro based practice, satellite offices San Jose, S.F., & Concord. P/T optometrist. Must be computer literate, able to learn quickly. Candidate should also possess strong interpersonal and communication skills. Have valid CDL. Hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. M-F. 12-hour shift assignment upon experience/worke...ed benefits. Request application to Diane or Helene 510-521-6200.

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P/T - Individual on-call to do telephone surveys, at our location in Alameda. Must be detail oriented, hardworking, and like to talk to people. Need to be computer literate. Please call for an appointment between 10-5pm M-F. Ask for Diane or Helene 510-521-6200.

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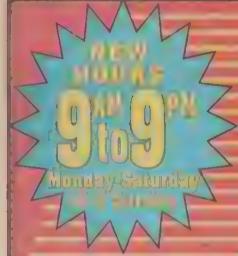
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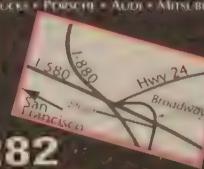
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Veggies sizzle on the grill

By NATALIE HAUGHTON
LOS ANGELES DAILY NEWS

Grilling and backyard barbecues most conjure up images of sizzling steaks, burgers, chicken or fish. But has it ever crossed your mind to put vegetables on the grill? If not, you'll be amazed at how simple, healthy and fabulous tasting fresh produce can be.

"Most vegetables cook beautifully on the grill with just a minimum of preparation or attention," notes Kelly McCune in "Vegetables on the Grill" cookbook. "We have been encouraging people to cook an entire meal on the grill for years, and finally people are coming around," says Betty Hughes, consumer affairs director for Weber-Stephen Products Co., the company that manufactures Weber grills. "People are really missing out if they don't do vegetables on the grill."

Grilling vegetables heightens their natural sweetness resulting in a fabulous smoky, caramelized flavor that is very different from those that are steamed, microwaved or boiled.

The smoky flavor is derived from the smoke from the vegetables dropping down the grill's heat source and thus cooking and caramelizing the sugars in the vegetables, says Hughes. "You'll get the same smoky flavor whether you use a gas or charcoal grill."

For more of a wood flavor add flavored wood chips to a gas grill, advises Hughes. Soak the chips in a small foil pan and place them in the pan in the hottest area of the grill underneath the cooking grates, which Weber gas grills is in the front left hand corner. Don't place the food directly above the chips to avoid a flare up or a fire.

Experiment and learn what works best for your grill. Here are some tips for success — gleaned from experts and our own experience:



LOS ANGELES DAILY NEWS

TOSSING A COLORFUL ARRAY of fresh vegetables on the grill creates a simple and healthy meal. Grilling vegetables heightens the corn, along with some additional smoky flavor.

For best results and fastest cooking, be sure the grill is very hot before adding the vegetables of your choice, emphasizes Hughes. Start a charcoal grill 30 minutes in advance of cooking or preheat a gas grill for 10 to 15 minutes.

The simplest and best way to grill vegetables is to brush them all over with olive or vegetable oil, and place on the grill. No blanching needed. While we prefer to

season with salt and garlic or regular pepper after grilling, some cooks like to toss the vegetables with oil, salt and pepper prior to grilling. Don't bother to marinate vegetables before grilling as they don't absorb much, if any, marinade.

For more flavor — after grilling — drizzle the produce with herb-flavored oils, dressings or marinades and fresh herbs, but go easy so the sweet flavors of the vegeta-

bles dominate. Hughes likes to add bottled vinaigrette dressing to a platter of grilled vegetables before serving as a side dish.

Be sure the cooking grates are clean before you grill, notes Lisa Hanauer, an Oakland-based food writer and former chef restaurateur, who loves grilling vegetables and shares her corn-on-the-cob grilling tricks in the September issue of Taunton's Fine Cooking magazine.

Although grill experts have differing opinions, we found wiping the cooking grates lightly with oiled paper towels prevents the vegetables from sticking. Experiment and see what works best for you.

For best results, grill vegetables over direct medium to medium high heat, turning once half way through the cooking

Please see VEGGIES, Page 2

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Veggies

FROM PAGE 1

me. Generally figure it'll take six to 10 minutes total for grilling most vegetables. (Corn on the cob and potatoes will take longer.)

Vegetables can be placed close together on cooking grates, but they should have full surface exposure to the heat to cook evenly.

Hughes recommends cooking with the grill lid down as it reduces the chance of flare-ups and shortens the cooking time since more heat is retained.

However, due to constant tending of the veggies, we only covered the grill for a few minutes at a time, mostly for the not-so-tender vegetables like carrots or corn on the cob, to cook them through. Suit yourself.

Use grilling times only as guidelines. Timing will vary depending on: thickness of the vegetables, temperature of the grill, temperature of the vegetables when you start cooking them (cold, room temperature, etc.) and how you like them cooked.

Vegetables are best cooked crisp tender rather than soft and mushy. You want them to retain their shape and flavor.

Don't walk away when grilling vegetables. Watch them as they cook rapidly — you don't want them overdone, soggy and limp.

If you plan to serve a vegetable platter for a large group, grill the vegetables a few hours before guests arrive, arrange on serving plates, cover with foil or plastic wrap and serve at room temperature. Provided you haven't overcooked them, the vegetables will have beautiful color — and wonderful flavor.

Mix and match vegetables —

and think about color combinations for the most attractive arrangements on platters. Peruse farmers' markets or supermarkets for the best in-season buys.

Remember, practice makes perfect. The more you grill vegetables and experiment, the more confident you'll become. As noted in "Weber's Art of the Grill," cookbook, "The road to great grilled vegetables is paved with experimentation."

Don't overlook the possibilities of grilled vegetables for main as well as side dishes on menus year-round.

You can present the vegetables "as is" on a platter or drizzle with olive oil and sprinkle with chopped fresh basil — or combine the smoky flavors of the grilled veggies with other ingredients like pasta, sauces, soups, breads and other ingredients for robust meals — either meatless or with meat.

You can even turn out great grilled salads — by grilling romaine lettuce hearts very quickly, then topping with chopped fresh tomatoes, grilled chopped up eggplant, a few Kalamata olives and a generous sprinkling of feta cheese.

Red peppers, grilled and topped some olive oil, are simple and divine on an antipasto platter with tapenades, salami, buffalo mozzarella cheese and tomato slices and a sprinkling of fresh basil.

Hughes likes to toss grilled veggies with cooked pasta or turn them into a grilled pizza (she uses frozen bread dough, thawed, or a Boboli shell).

Hanauer likes to whip up salads with any vegetables she has around. "I go for color and texture and toss with olive oil, garlic, vinegar, etc." She also uses grilled produce to create salsas and ratatouilles and fill quesadillas, omelets and crepes.

Keep in mind that grilled vegetables, embellished or not, can provide a satisfying meal that even meat eaters will applaud. Serve them hot from the grill, at room temperature or chilled, alone or in a variety of creations. You'll be amazed at how the distinctive flavors of the vegetables shine through. You're in for some flavorful dining.

Grilled Vegetables with dipping sauce

Dipping Sauce:

2 1/2 tablespoons olive oil
2 yellow peppers, stemmed, seeded and finely diced
1 1/2 to 2 teaspoons Indian curry powder

Sea salt to taste
3 tablespoons white wine
1 cup mayonnaise

Vegetables (choose at least 5)

4 heads Belgian endive, halved
4 leeks, trimmed, halved and cleaned

1 bunch green onions

1 large fennel bulb, trimmed and sliced lengthwise 1/2-inch thick
1/4 pound snow peas, strings

16 fat asparagus spears

16 baby carrots, cleaned

1 bunch radishes, rinsed and trimmed

1 small head cauliflower, separated into 1-inch florets
1/2 pound shiitake mushroom caps
2 red peppers, stemmed, seeded and each cut into 6 wedges
Olive oil to coat
Sea salt and freshly ground pepper

To make dip. Warm olive oil over medium heat in a small skillet. Add peppers, curry powder and salt. Saute, stirring frequently, until peppers are very soft but not brown at 10 minutes. Pour in wine and cool 2 minutes more.

Add mayonnaise and mix until thoroughly incorporated. Taste for seasoning and place in a serving dish. Store in refrigerator until ready to serve. (The dip will keep 1 week in refrigerator.)

For grilled vegetables: select ones you wish to grill and lay out in a large roasting pan. Drizzle enough olive oil to coat lightly and sprinkle with salt and pepper. Grill vegetables until crisp-tender.

Different vegetables will take slightly different amounts of time. Watch carefully. As vegetables become cooked, arrange around Dipping Sauce on a large decorative platter. Makes 8 to 10 servings

Grilled tomato and onion salad

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2 large onions
Olive oil
Sea salt and freshly ground pepper
1/2 pound blue cheese
2/3 cup pecan halves, toasted

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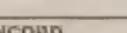
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1/4 cup apple cider vinegar
1 heaping teaspoon Dijon mustard
Sea salt and freshly ground pepper
1/2 cup olive oil

For Salad: slice tomatoes and onion into large slices, 1/2-inch thick. Coat lightly with olive oil; season with salt and pepper. Set aside. Crumble blue cheese and toast pecans and set aside.

For Classic Vinaigrette: whisk together vinegar, mustard, salt and pepper. Slowly whisk in olive oil, making sure it is emulsified before adding more oil; continue until all oil is incorporated. Set aside.

Place onions on cooking grate and grill 5 minutes each side. Add tomatoes and grill 2 minutes on each side. Place 2 slices of tomatoes and 2 slices of onion on each plate. Top with blue cheese, pecans and a drizzle of Classic Vinaigrette. Serve at room temperature. Makes 4 servings.

Garlic Tuscan bread salad with summer vegetables

1 large, ripe beefsteak tomatoes, seeded and cut into 3/4-inch dice
1 cucumber, peeled and cut on a sharp diagonal into 1/4-inch-thick slices
2 tablespoons drained capers

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White peach holds pedigree as centuries-old tradition

By Kristin Eddy
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

a new look surprises many.
generations of peach lovers
identify the fruit's flesh as a soft
yellow-orange color that the white
can seem spooky.
Used to it, folks, because the
peach is a "hot commodity
now," according to Ian Mer-

win of Cornell University. Merwin, a professor of pomology, or fruit sciences, says that consumers are attracted to the white peach's slightly higher sugar content compared with the traditional peach, as well as the novelty of the color.

Growers are interested in the fruit because it brings renewed interest to the industry, which traditionally

has marketed the fruit only by state designation, such as Georgia or California peaches. "There is a tremendous amount of emotion and allegiance to apple varieties among consumers," Merwin says. "If someone is a Fuji apple eater and it's not in the store, they might not substitute another apple, such as Granny Smith. With peaches, they only look for what is ripe."

Although not as diverse as apples, peaches do indeed vary in color from reddish, deep pink and orange peaches to those with the pale flesh possible.

"I could give you about 30 names," says Don Baiers, president of the Michigan Peach Sponsors Association in Berrien County, Mich. "But if we get too many names out there it will confuse people. They are used to looking for just a plain peach."

White-fleshed peaches may be new to some markets, but they are a centuries-old tradition in Europe and Asia.

Native to China, peaches were

once known as Persian apples, named for the part of the world that introduced the peach to Europe, according to The Food Lover's Companion. But most of trees in this country produce fruit with yellow and orange flesh. And though California is the biggest grower of peaches in the U.S., it's the South, not the West Coast, that is most readily identified as a peach-loving region; the fruit can be found from Georgia to Arkansas at any meal, pickled, canned and cobbler-ed.

But if consumers haven't devoted too much thought to shades of peach flesh, it may be because it can be difficult to find one that tastes good. The peaches of our dreams ooze sweet juice from a flushed peach flesh. In reality, they often turn out hard, tasteless and uniform in color.

Peaches have their major botanical distinction at the core of the fruit, being divided into either free-

Please see PEACHES, Page 5

Luscious ways to treat a peach

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Chicken Potato Pancakes
Prep time: 45 minutes
Cooking time: 55 minutes
Yield: 6 servings
Chicken pancakes:
1 lb. chicken thighs
1/2 cup fresh ground pepper
1/2 cup grated potato, squeezed dry
1/2 cup onion, grated
1/2 cup flour
1/2 cup fresh ground pepper
1/2 cup oil
1/2 cup vegetable oil
1/2 cup butter

Please see RECIPES, Page 5

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Veggies

FROM PAGE 3

Grill bread on both sides until golden, 1 1/2 to 2 minutes per side. Transfer vegetables and bread to a cutting board and chop all into 3/4-inch chunks. Combine with tomato mixture, tossing well. Adjust seasoning to taste. Serve warm or at room temperature. Makes 6 servings.

Grilled tomato halves with cheese and basil

3 large firm, ripe tomatoes, halved
2 tablespoons olive oil
Salt and pepper to taste
2 tablespoons chopped fresh basil
OR 2 teaspoons dried basil
1 tablespoon grated Parmesan cheese OR more to taste
Small basil leaves for garnish

Brush tomatoes with olive oil; sprinkle with salt and pepper. Place on oiled grill, cut side down. 4 to 5 inches from hot coals. Grill 4 to 5 minutes. Turn tomatoes using a wide spatula, and sprinkle with basil and cheese.

Cook 3 to 5 minutes longer or until tomatoes are tender but still hold their shape. Remove from grill and garnish with basil leaves. Serve hot or warm. Makes 4 to 6 servings.

The mark of great veggies

Here's a guide to grilling selected vegetables. Keep in mind that grilling times are dependent on lots of factors including how hot the grill is, the temperature of the food prior to grilling, the

thickness and tenderness of the food being cooked, etc.

Artichokes: Trim whole and baby artichokes and cut in quarters (or in half if small). Parboil just until tender; cool and toss with olive oil and salt and pepper, if desired. Grill, covered, directly over medium coals or medium heat on gas grill, cut side up first, turning once, about 5 to 7 minutes.

Has it ever crossed your mind to toss a colorful array of fresh vegetables on the grill? If not, you'll be amazed at how simple, healthy and fabulous tasting grilled produce can be.

utes per side until nicely browned and tender.

Asparagus: Trim tough stems; coat with olive oil and salt and pepper, if desired. Grill directly over medium heat, turning frequently, about 5 to 8 minutes total, until nicely browned.

Bell peppers: Cut peppers in half lengthwise and remove seeds. Brush lightly all over with olive oil. Grill over medium coals, turning occasionally, until tender, about 12 to 15 minutes total. You should have nice brown grill marks.

Corn: Shuck corn, rub with butter and salt and wrap in foil OR leave corn in the husk and remove just a few outer layers.

Grill corn, covered, in foil directly over medium heat, turning as necessary.

Grill corn in husk, covered over medium hot coals, turning frequently. Grill corn in foil about

20 minutes, turning once. Grill corn in husks 10 to 15 minutes or longer, until charred all over. Remove from husk and leave on grill a minute or two to sear and gain grill marks and more smoky flavor.

Eggplant: Cut regular or Japanese eggplant in half lengthwise or into 3/4-inch thick lengthwise slices. Brush generously with

medium coals, turning occasionally until tender about 4 to 5 minutes.

Red or yellow onions: Cut onions in half and brush with olive oil. Grill over medium-hot coals about to 5 to 7 minutes per side, until soft, but not limp, lightly charred and translucent.

If charring too fast, move to indirect heat to finish grilling.

Potatoes: Quarter or halve small red or yellow potatoes; cut Idahoans lengthwise into slices; parboil if desired in microwave oven; toss with olive oil, salt and fresh herbs.

Grill directly over medium-hot coals; move to indirect heat (with grill covered) to finish cooking if not parboiled.

Grill 4 to 6 minutes per side, until well grilled all over; cook with indirect heat 6 to 7 minutes to finish if not parboiled.

Tomatoes: Cut large tomatoes in half. Brush lightly with oil. Grill over medium coals, turning once until heated through, 5 to 7 minutes total.

Watch carefully to avoid overcooking and having tomatoes lose their shape and become limp.

Squash (yellow or zucchini): Cut small squash (about 3 to 4 ounces each) in half lengthwise. Cut large zucchini into thick lengthwise slices. Brush lightly with oil.

Grill over medium coals, turning occasionally until tender, 8 to 12 minutes total.

Sweet potatoes: Pare potatoes and slice 1/2 inch thick. Brush lightly with oil. Grill over medium heat, turning occasionally until tender, 14 to 16 minutes total.

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recipes

On PAGE 3
pan. Bake 30 minutes. Reduce oven to 300 degrees; cook until meat is cooked through, about 15 minutes.
In medium bowl. Mix salsa, toss peaches with salsa. In large mixing bowl; pour in gaesed 13-by-9-inch baking dish. Set aside. Heat oven to 425 degrees.
2. For biscuits, mix flour, baking

**Lee Bailey's
Peach and Raspberry
Biscuits With Butter Biscuits**
Preparation time: 50 minutes
Cooking time: 35 minutes
Yield: 10 servings

**Peach and Raspberry
Biscuits With Butter Biscuits**
Preparation time: 50 minutes
Cooking time: 35 minutes
Yield: 10 servings

**peaches, peeled, sliced
raspberries
sugar
flour
cinnamon
eggs
baking powder
sugar
salt**

peaches**On PAGE 3**

or clingstone varieties. Some are mostly used in canning, and freestone are the ones we eat out of hand. Peaches are marketed exclusively as fresh fruit because they discolor more easily upon handling than the traditional varieties, Merwin says.

For their potential appeal to consumers, has led growers to increase the production of white peaches to 19 percent from 5.5 percent of the total crop in the last two years, according to the

6 tablespoons unsalted butter

1/4 cup milk

1/4 cup whipping cream

Flour, sugar

Vanilla ice cream

1. For fruit, combine peaches, raspberries, sugar, flour and cinnamon in large mixing bowl; pour in gaesed 13-by-9-inch baking dish. Set aside. Heat oven to 425 degrees.

2. For biscuits, mix flour, baking



Sprinkle biscuits with sugar. Bake 35 minutes, or until biscuits are lightly browned. Serve with ice cream.

—Adapted from "Bill Neal's Southern Cooking."

Peach Dumplings With Peach Sauce

Preparation time: 1 hour
Cooking time: 40 minutes
Yield: 12 servings

2 tablespoons sugar
1/2 teaspoon vanilla

1. Heat oven to 375 degrees. For sauce, mix sugar, cornstarch, vanilla, allspice and salt in saucepan; stir in peaches. Heat to boil, stirring occasionally, until mixture is thickened, about 10 minutes.

2. For dumplings, combine flour, brown sugar, baking powder and salt in medium bowl. Stir in peaches and pecans. Combine buttermilk and oil; stir into flour mixture just until ingredients are moistened.

3. Pour sauce into 13-by-9-inch baking dish. Drop dumpling dough into sauce using large serving spoon, leaving space between each. Bake until dumplings are cooked through and sauce is bubbly, 30 minutes.

4. For topping, beat cream in bowl of electric mixer on medium speed until fluffy. Add sugar and vanilla; beat on high speed until soft peaks form. Serve over warm dumplings.

—Adapted from "Shuck Beans, Stack Cakes and Honest Fried Chicken," by Ronni Lundy.

Peach, Bacon & Watercress Salad

Preparation time: 15 minutes
Cooking time: 10 minutes
Yield: 6 servings

6 strips thick-cut bacon
1/2 cup vegetable oil
3 tablespoons sherry vinegar
1 teaspoon each: stone-ground mustard, honey
1/2 teaspoon ground red pepper
2 heads Boston lettuce, torn into bite-size pieces
1 cup watercress leaves
2 ripe peaches, peeled, sliced

Cook bacon until crisp in medium skillet. Drain on paper towels; cool, crumble. Whisk together oil, vinegar, mustard, honey and red pepper in small bowl. Combine lettuce, watercress, peaches and bacon in large bowl. Toss with vinaigrette.

powder, 1 tablespoon sugar and salt in medium bowl. Cut butter into flour mixture with pastry blender, two knives or food processor. Stir in milk and cream until just combined (don't overmix); turn onto floured surface. Knead dough about 10 times; roll or pat to 1/2-inch thick. Cut into circles or other shapes with biscuit cutter; place biscuits on top of fruit. If you don't have a biscuit cutter, you can use the top of a drinking glass.

California Tree Fruit Agreement trade group. Much of the white fruit currently is being sold to Pacific Rim markets while U.S. marketing efforts develop.

As they enter the market, white peach varieties are going by such fanciful names as Snow Flame, White Lady and Champagne to compete with such traditional peaches as Garnet Beauty, Red Haven and Jim Dandee.

Don't overpower the delicate flavor of a peach with too much sugar. A buttery biscuit topping works well with the cooked fruit, as does a tart vinaigrette with bacon and lettuce. The season already is sweet and brief. Like summer itself.

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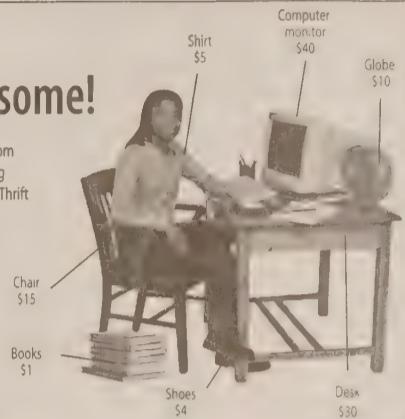
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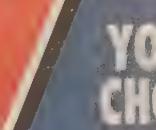
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Blueberry Shrub

Adapted from "American Home Cooking," by Cheryl Alters Jamison and Bill Jamison (Houghton Mifflin Company Books, 1999)

Time: 15 minutes

1 cup blueberries, rinsed and stemmed
1 cup sugar
1 cup brandy
Mint sprigs

Combine blueberries and sugar in a saucepan with one-and-a-half cups water. Cook at a low simmer for 5 minutes, stirring occasionally, until blueberries

are very soft. Strain juice through a fine sieve into a pitcher (or using a funnel, into a clean, empty wine bottle).

Press gently with the back of a spoon to release juice from berries. You can pass juice through a cheesecloth to remove seeds.) Add brandy to pitcher or bottle, and refrigerate. Shrub will keep for several weeks.

2. To serve, fill a tall glass with ice. Then fill it halfway with cold water or sparkling water. Top off glass with shrub, and garnish with a mint sprig and a lemon wedge and enjoy.

Yield: 6 servings.



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- Study Related Lab Tests
- Dietary Assessments
- Study Related Care

To be eligible for participation you must:

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- Have High Triglycerides
- Be willing to follow a prescribed low-fat diet
- Be willing to keep food diaries

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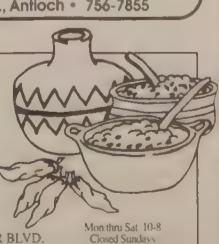
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Dining Spotlight



For over 50 years, Snooker Pete's Bar & Grille located at 3788 Railroad Avenue in Pittsburg, has been serving the best in Italian, Continental and Cajun cuisine.

When the restaurant first opened it was known as the Diablo Inn and was founded by Pete Aiello, a local "Snooker (billiards) Champion", hence the nickname "Snooker Pete" and his wife Marie. In 1972 their son Vince joined in the restaurant business and in 1975 he bought the restaurant from his Mom & Dad.

In January 1983, a devastating fire destroyed the Diablo Inn. Vince Aiello and his wife, Joan rebuilt the restaurant and remodeled the interior with elegant solid oak and gorgeous stained glass windows giving the atmosphere a San Francisco feel to it. In honor of Vince's father, the Aiello's renamed the restaurant Snooker Pete's. The menu has a large variety of different entries to choose from including "blackened" Cajun dishes, steak, veal & fresh seafood prepared by Vince & Joan Aiello, both accomplished chefs.

Jim Marshal is the new General Manager and Catering Director and brings over 20 years of expertise in the restaurant industry. He has planned 100's of events from small birthday parties to large wedding receptions.

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Snooker Pete's serves lunch Tues. thru Fri. 11:30 a.m. till 2:00 p.m. Dinner is served Tues. thru Sat. 5:30 p.m. & closed Sunday & Monday except for private parties. Call (925) 439-9090 to make reservations.

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Blueberries

M-PAGE 1
In Japan, they are used
in cakes and other treats,
and appeal to children and
adults here and there.
Buy blueberries
in New Jersey are keen
new markets, because
they seem to find new
customers from large growers in
the United States and from Central
America.

Over the last 20 years, varieties of
blueberries have been developed
to the hotter climates of
the United States like Florida and
Carolina, which now produce
several pounds of fruit.

At least for the moment,
cherries are doing well, helped
by the Department of Agriculture at the Human
Research Center on Aging
at Tufts University, which
studied 40 fruits and vegetables for
their antioxidant properties, which are
able to mitigate the effects of aging
on the body.

The study put blueberries on top,
blackberries, kale and garlic
showing. The findings were well
received last year and led to what
was a recognizable, if not dramatic
upturn in blueberry sales.

Most of the fresh berries Worrell
is picked by hand, because
they command a better price. Many
new varieties, both the deluxe,
medium model and the smaller
ones, need a tractor, are boxy
enough that straddle the
berries, brushing berries off with
overloaded feelers. The berries
are in a trough, and a conveyor
them in a bin.

The machines, though, are
far on the berries and significantly
less picky than the pickers.
Home-harvested berries are most
likely to companies like Ocean
Sea to be made into purees,
jams and juices.

Even the most subtle flaw in a
blueberry is the presence of a green berry
or, or a fainter darker cast to
it will influence the price.

Blueberries are moderately perky,
handpicked at the perfect
point of firm ripeness, they will
last 10 to 15 days if refrigerated.
(They also freeze extremely well.)

In the end, what makes blueberries
so irresistible is their taste. A
few fresh berries might be the
expedient way to experience
them, but cooking with them, for
those who can defer gratification,
intensify their flavor.

Cooking blueberries moderately perky,
a little water and sugar makes
a simple, versatile sauce. After a few
days on the flame, the berries
are liquefy, reducing to a
blueberry concentrate, deli-
ciously over vanilla ice cream
around cake. The syrup keeps
several days in the refrigerator.
Although they are frequently
mixed with other berries in
dishes, prefer to keep blueberries
to themselves, to avoid out-
fitting them with an assertive
strawberry or raspberry flavor.

Lemon, lime and cinnamon, used
sparingly, can complement and en-
hance the natural essence of blue-
berry. Or toss a cinnamon stick or
even a bay leaf (a distant cousin of
the blueberry) into the simmering
sauce to add complexity.

But always, be careful not to
oversweeten blueberry desserts,
which too many cooks do. Go easy
on the sugar and instead, add more
blueberries. A handful more never
hurt a recipe. And it just might help
you live longer.

BLUEBERRY-BANANA PANCAKES

Adapted from "The Black Dog
Summer on the Vineyard Cookbook,"
by Joe Hall and Elaine Sullivan
(Little, Brown & Co., 2000)

Time: 30 minutes

1½ cup unbleached all-purpose
flour
½ buckwheat flour
½ cup whole wheat flour
4 tablespoons cornmeal
2 tablespoons sugar
2½ teaspoons baking powder
¾ teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon salt
3 teaspoons cinnamon
4 eggs
2½ cups whole milk
4 tablespoons unsalted butter,
melted
1 pint fresh blueberries
1 thinly sliced banana

1. Mix dry ingredients together
in a medium sized bowl. In a sepa-
rate bowl, beat eggs with 2½ cups
milk and the melted butter.

2. Add wet mixture to dry in-
gredients and mix gently with a
wooden spoon. Add additional milk
if mixture is too thick. Gently fold
in blueberries.

3. Heat a griddle, adding a small
pat of butter. Ladle batter onto hot
griddle and place three or four slices
of banana on each pancake. Cook
until tops are dimpled with tiny bubbles,
then flip and finish cooking for
a minute longer. Serve with butter
and maple syrup.

Yield: 6 servings.

ORANGE SOUR CREAM CAKE
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45 minutes plus cooling time

For the cake:

1½ cups sifted cake flour
¾ cups sugar
¾ teaspoon baking powder

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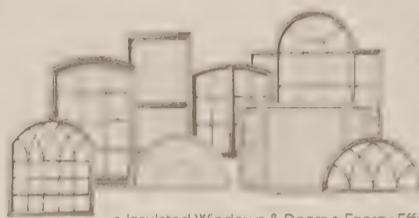
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Potato salad: an American summer tradition

By NATALIE HAUGHTON
LOS ANGELES DAILY NEWS
Potato salad, no matter how it is named, is a summer holiday tradition for barbecues or picnics. It's usually served with grilled hot dogs, hamburgers, chicken and fish.

Potato salads conjure up lots of fond taste memories depending on what part of the country you hail from. There are probably as many variations and subtle nuances on potato salad as there are cooks.

It may be dressed with plain mayonnaise, Miracle Whip, sour cream, even occasionally a hot vinegar combination. Accents range from prepared yellow mustard and dill pickles to sweet

pickle relish, celery, green or white onions, chopped red pepper, cucumbers, olives, assorted seasonings and more. Many also include copious amounts of chopped hard-cooked eggs.

Today there are even numerous trendy, contemporary, new-fangled creations, running the gamut from oil and vinegar-based salads with lots of vegetables to curried salads with yogurt, mango chutney and dried fruits — and even Greek renditions with crumbled feta cheese, Kalmata olives, cucumbers, tomatoes and such. You can turn potato salads into main dishes in the blink of an eye with the addition of chopped up ham, chicken, salmon, shrimp and more.

So what kind of potatoes are best, what is the best way to cook the potatoes and when should you cut up the potatoes? It all depends on who's cooking and who you're reading to.

In a chapter on the Perfect Potato Salad in her cookbook, "The Perfect Recipe," (Houghton Mifflin), author Pam Anderson includes the following recommendations.

"Use low-starch potatoes, boil them in their skins, don't salt the water (seasonings don't penetrate the potato skin), don't peel the potatoes unless you really want to and use a serrated knife to cut them. While the potatoes are still warm, drizzle them with a splash of vinegar. Then proceed with the recipe."

But other cooks have different thoughts. Some prefer redskin or white new potatoes, while others use Yukon Gold, Idaho or russets.

"The type of potato to use in a potato salad has long been a point of contention with potato salad aficionados," writes Philip Stephen Schulz in his cookbook, "As American as Apple Pie" (Simon and Schuster).

"Mealy versus waxy. Mealy potatoes (such as Idaho or Maine), considered best for baking and mashing, are 'mealy' because their cells tend to separate when cooked. Waxy potatoes (like Early Rose and

Please see POTATO, Page 7

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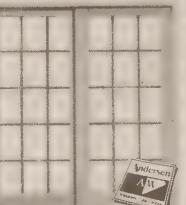
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Wet & Warm Home Center

Wet & Warm Home Center is owned and operated by Marie and Dave Durkin. They opened their doors in April, 1978 under the business name of D&M Electric and specialized in electrical contracting for commercial pools.

When their children became involved with the local swim teams, they had parents approach them and ask advice regarding their pool equipment. Dave and Marie decided to expand their business to include pool supplies and other product lines. Two years ago they changed the name to Wet & Warm Home Center. The Durkins sell high quality pool supplies, above ground pools, spas, stoves, and offer a full repair service.

Dave and Marie research all the products that they sell very carefully to ensure their customers are getting the best quality products. Marie commented, "Everything we sell, we warranty the products ourselves so you do not have to go to anyone else".

Dave is the Northern California Chapter President for the NSPI, which stands for the National Spa & Pool Institute. Marie Durkin was the very first woman certified in Northern California with the NSPI. To keep up their certification, they must go through 40 hours of training every couple of years.

If you are looking for a new spa, Wet & Warm Home Center carries well-known brands such as Baja, Softub & Blue Pacific. They can arrange financing for your spa or pool purchase as well. The Durkins also have a large selection of stoves to choose from that include popular names like Lopi, Austraflame, Pacific Energy, Reliant, FPX (Fireplace Extrordinaire), and also carry pellet BBQ's.

With summer weather just around the corner, visit Dave and Marie Durkin at the Wet & Warm Home Center for all your pool and spa needs. They are located at 1201 Somersville Road, Antioch, 757-1311.

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turn and buttery flavor — are also good for potato salad as are fingerlings with their thin skin and nutty flavor.

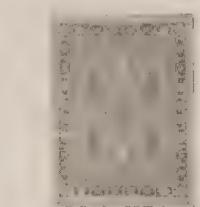
Idaho and purple potatoes are soft and crumbly and are better for mashed potatoes, she says. After testing several varieties, Anderson preferred low-starch boiling potatoes like Red Bliss and new potatoes.

Boiling was Anderson's method of choice for cooking potatoes. She noted that warm potatoes are just as absorbent as hot ones and hold together much better, so she advises cooling them a bit before cutting.

Shulz writes that potatoes should be cooked unpeeled in boiling water just until tender. "Avoid overcooking as the potatoes will disintegrate when tossed with a dressing," he says.

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- 1 green bell pepper, chopped
- 2 stalks celery, chopped
- 1/3 to 1/2 cup chopped green onions
- 1 large OR 2 medium tomatoes, chopped
- 6 medium potatoes, cooked until tender, peeled and diced

In a large bowl mix together all ingredients except potatoes. Add potatoes and toss to blend well. Cover and chill several hours. Garnish with hard-cooked egg slices and paprika if desired.

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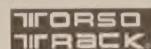


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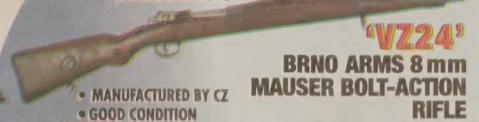
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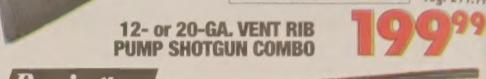
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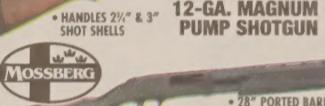


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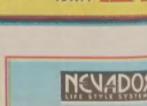
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